

THE TIMES  
Saturday

**TIMES**

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Saturday  
Review

Why Bush fears  
this woman



Dianne Feinstein  
wants to govern  
California. George  
Bush wants her to fail.  
Peter Stothard reports  
from out west

Time and the  
scientist

Stephen Hawking's  
physical disability has  
proved to be no  
impediment to his  
mathematical  
explorations

At last, the  
Gibbons show

The best work of  
Grinling Gibbons, past  
master of sculpted  
wood, finally gets an  
exhibition

LIVING

A rainbow  
of hope



Delta O'Callaghan on  
dreaming in colour in  
her job as director of  
the much-maligned  
Barbican Arts Centre

Billionaire  
barbarians

Whose job should it be  
to stem the rising tide  
of art robberies?

SPORT

They're ready  
minus Eddie

There is more to  
British skiing than the  
exploits of Eddie  
Edwards. Brian James  
joined the team

MONEY

Follow that  
pension

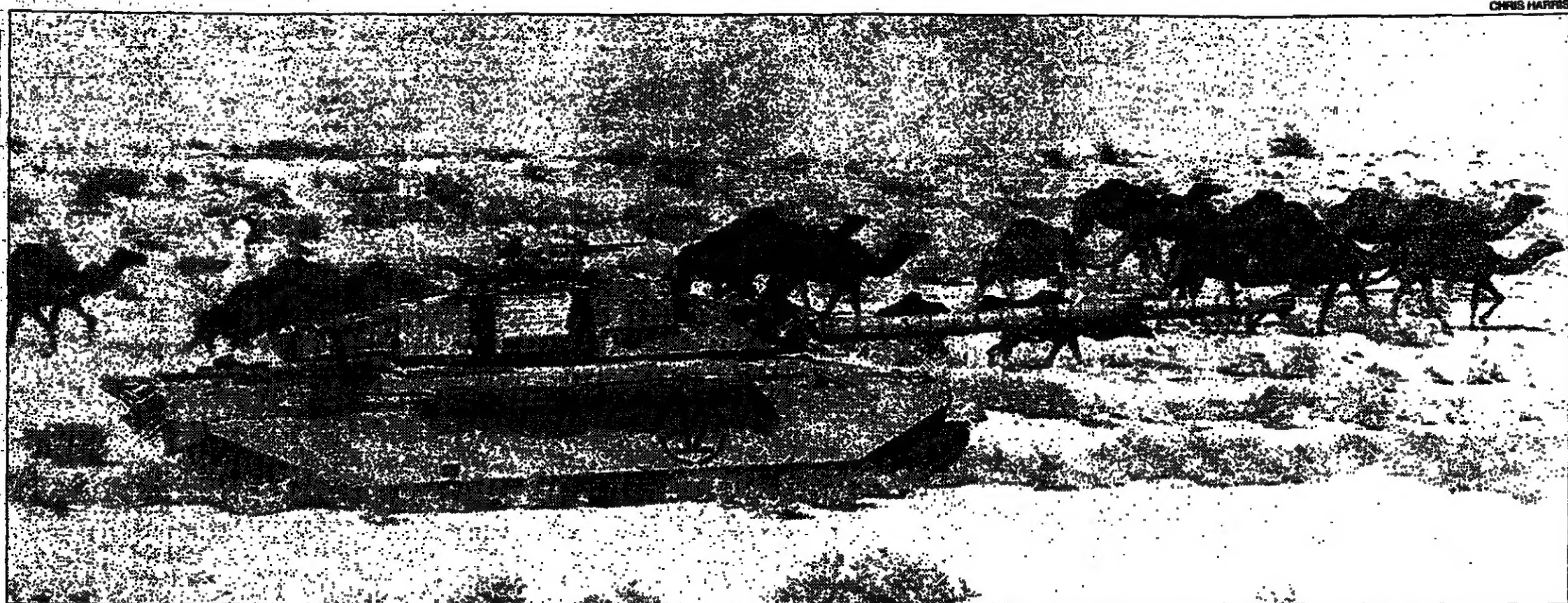
An interview with the  
man who tracks down  
thousands of "lost"  
pensions

Clocks go back

British summer time ends at  
2am tomorrow. Clocks and  
watches should be put back  
one hour to 1am (GMT). In  
1991 the summer time period  
will be from March 31 to  
October 27.

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Onward into the desert: the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, renowned for the Charge of the Light Brigade, taking the first British tanks into the Saudi desert from Dhahran yesterday.

## Hatton held in police raids over land deals

By RONALD FAUX

DEREK Hatton, the flamboyant former deputy leader of Liverpool city council, was among 22 people arrested yesterday morning in a series of raids by police investigating allegedly corrupt council land deals.

Mr Hatton, the only detainee to be identified, was last night released on police bail until March 25. His solicitor, David Phillips, said: "No charges have been preferred. He is denying all the allegations that have been put to him."

A number of councillors were arrested in the raids, but Keva Coombes, the recently-deposed council leader, was not among them. His solicitor, Rex Makin, said that Mr Coombes had been assisting police with their enquiries "as a matter of public duty". No solicitors or council officers were arrested.

Two hundred and eighty officers had executed search warrants on sixty business premises and private homes in Merseyside, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Cheshire in what was described as a search for evidence of corruption, theft, forgery and false accounting. Jewellery worth £250,000 from a safety deposit box was recovered during the Operation Cheetah raids, part of a seven-month-old investigation into the land deals.

Clive Atkinson, Merseyside assistant chief constable for crime said: "This is only the first phase of what has already become a major enquiry. Merseyside police are determined to get to the bottom of recurring allegations which have riddled the city in recent years. We have a duty to the people of Merseyside to investigate and, where sufficient evidence exists, to place people before the courts. This morning's activity does not mark the end of the enquiry. It is only the beginning."

Mr Atkinson said the investigation would be long-running and there would be further substantial activity. Police were working closely with the fraud investigation group of the Crown Prosecution Service. He said that police had already uncovered

a lot of information and many people had come forward but he appealed for those with information who may have been reluctant to tell police what they know to come forward.

Mr Hatton emerged from his home in Wavertree, Liverpool, at 9.45 yesterday morning accompanied by police officers. He was smiling and looked untroubled as they took him to the office of Settlements, his public relations company in the city centre, where he was interviewed for two-and-a-half hours. Fraud squad officers took material from both his home and the offices and Mr Hatton was then taken to Stanley Road police station, where Operation Cheetah is being co-ordinated.

Liverpool city council has for several years been selling land to help to finance an ambitious house-building programme launched by the deposed Militant-dominated administration of the mid-1980s. Liverpool this year faces a projected deficit of more than £12 million, largely because it is thought unlikely in the depressed property market that it will find more than £3 million from land and property sales. It had been hoping to raise £60 million.

## Talks to set new university goals

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

VICE-CHANCELLORS yesterday began to reassess their plans for expanding student numbers after the unexpected rejection of their bids for extra places over the next four years. They will meet national planners next week to try to minimise the delay in restoring long-term targets.

The decision of the Universities Funding Council to abandon the bidding system after almost a year of preparation continued to attract criticism last night. Vice-chancellors accused the council of failing to live up to its responsibilities and impeding the universities' efforts to meet the government's desire to expand higher education.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said he would seek a Commons statement from John MacGregor, the education secretary, on

Monday. He said: "The collapse of the new funding system for universities is a clear indication that the government's strategy for expansion in student numbers is in complete chaos."

Few vice-chancellors expect to succeed in their attempts to persuade the council to reverse its decision, but all hope to avoid a time-consuming new planning exercise and another year's delay in restoring the four-year cycle that the council had just introduced.

David Harrison, vice-chancellor of Exeter University, which was one of those that did bid below the council's guide prices, said: "I was not totally surprised by the decision because there obviously were divisions within the council."

Leading article, page 13

Background, page 2

## Batten down the hatches warning

By LIN JENKINS

GUIDELINES to householders on how to limit storm damage have been issued by the Association of British Insurers, following the warning from the meteorological office that stormy weather is expected to begin battering much of Britain from tomorrow night.

The association suggested doors and windows be shut, garden furniture and children's bicycles and toys be put away and ladders and scaffolding taken down. Cars should be garaged or moved away from trees and potential hazards, and gutters and roofs checked for blockages and loose tiles.

The London weather centre has warned that stormy weather from tomorrow night is likely to cause structural damage and computer predictions have indicated a weather pattern similar to that of last January, when winds of more than 70 mph caused the deaths of 47 people, felled trees and resulted in £1 billion worth of damage to buildings.

The reluctance then to issue a public warning was less evident yesterday when meteorologists said they were sure a depression, monitored leaving Newfoundland, was heading for Britain.

Weathermen predict the worst of the winds will hit western and northern areas and be strongest over high ground. The stormy spell is expected to last until Tuesday.

● Crew rescued: The British three-man crew of the Grace, a crippled 37-foot yacht, was rescued yesterday eight hours after the vessel capsized and rolled 360 degrees in Atlantic gales.

They were picked up by the Turkish registered Elkin 29 on its way to Holland.

Today's weather, page 26

## Mayor Barry sentenced to six months in jail

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

A WASHINGTON judge yesterday sentenced Marion Barry, the city's mayor, to six months in jail for possession of cocaine. The sentence was unusually hard for a first-time offence and ignored leniency pleas from Barry's lawyers.

"The public rumours of his drug use gave aid, comfort and encouragement to the drug culture at large," said Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson.

"Now he must become an example of another kind. The sentence, which included a \$5,000 (£2,550) fine, does not preclude Barry running for a city council seat in elections on November 6 since he was convicted for a misdemeanour and not a felony."

Running scared, page 10  
Woman who haunts president, Saturday Review, page 10



Shamir yesterday: blamed 'Arab provocation'

## Israel justifies Temple Mount use of firearms

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

TO ANGRY Arab protests, the eagerly awaited official Israeli report into the Temple Mount killings on October 8 yesterday criticised the handling of the riots by senior police commanders but justified the use of live ammunition because the lives of policemen had been in danger.

The report of the three-man investigation team, led by General Zvi Zamir, attributed the cause of the riots to stone-throwing by Arab demonstrators "incited by preachers on loudspeakers." This was a "serious criminal offence" which had sparked off the "tragic chain of events."

Palestinian sources have claimed that the riots began when police lobbed tear gas at the crowd assembled on Temple Mount, either by accident or design.

The report said police had "gathered in an unsupervised manner" and accused it of "an indiscriminate use of live ammunition." But the rescue of two policemen trapped inside the Temple Mount police station had "justified a quick operation and the use of all means."

The Zamir report criticised Rahamin Comfort, the head of Police Southern Command

(which included Jerusalem) and Aryeh Bibi, the commander of the Jerusalem police force, for failing to react to advance information given to them by the Shin Bet, the internal security service.

Some officials said that senior police officers "might have to resign". But General Zamir, a former head of Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, said that recommending disciplinary action lay outside the scope of his inquiry. Ronni Milo, the minister of police, said the cabinet would study the report tomorrow and take "appropriate steps".

The report put the number of Arabs killed at 20, with 53 injured. It said 19 policemen had also been injured, as well as nine Jewish worshippers at the Wailing Wall.

A spokesman for Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, said: "The whole tragic event and the tragic loss of life began as the result of a provocation by Arab extremists. All in all I think the police did a good job."

Palestinian sources dismissed the report as "a whitewash".

Israel has been under intense pressure to agree to an investigation set up by the United Nations' secretary-general, but it has refused.

Partition denial, page 9

## Kuwait is reduced to small port town

FROM NICHOLAS BEESTON  
IN BAGHDAD

IRAQI occupation forces in Kuwait have been ordered to turn what was once one of the most sophisticated and modern cities in the Arab world into a small Iraqi port town.

The systematic looting of the emirate was not simply the act of a conquering army enjoying the spoils of victory, but rather a deliberate plan to dismantle the infrastructure of a nation-state and impose rapid demographic changes.

A senior Iraqi official said yesterday: "The situation in Kuwait is now being corrected and is getting back to normal. This false state is returning to being a normal city."

The plan will add weight to the argument put forward by Britain and the United States that unless Iraq can be made to withdraw from Kuwait, either by force or through the effect of economic sanctions, there may be nothing left of the country to restore to its ousted people and government. The Iraqi strategy appears to be designed to reduce the population, which before the invasion consisted of 550,240 Kuwaitis and 1,463,934 foreign workers, to about one-tenth of its size.

The looting and destruction that followed the invasion on

Continued on page 26, col 2  
Tanks on the move, page 9  
Diary, page 12  
Battle timeline, page 12

WHERE  
DO ACTORS GET  
THEIR BEST  
PARTS THESE  
DAYS?  
DAVID LYNCH?  
OR  
COSMETIC  
SURGEONS?



This month's GQ looks at the changing face of cosmetic surgery. Plus: Twin Peaks, Bernardo Bertolucci and Graeme Smith.

GQ: The men's magazine with an I.Q.  
November issue out now.

Stephen Hawking interview  
Saturday Review page 4

## Scientists uncover a giant among galaxies

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

AMERICAN astronomers have identified what they say is the largest galaxy ever observed. It is more than 60 times the size of our own galaxy, the Milky Way, and contains 100 million million stars. Despite its immense size, the galaxy is so far away that until now it has appeared as a bright but anonymous spot on charts of the heavens.

The discovery came from the close study of pictures taken at the Kitt Peak national observatory in Arizona of a well-known galaxy called Abell 2029, after George Abell, who worked on charting its composition. The galaxy has a bright core, but the new pictures enabled astronomers to observe its outermost fringes and make new estimates of its total size.

Writing in *Science* magazine, the

astronomers say that the galaxy is six million light years in diameter, which makes it more than four times as big as the largest previously known galaxy, Markarian 348. A light year, the distance light travels in a year, is about six million million miles.

Jeffrey Kuhn, an astronomer from Michigan State university, says that the claim that Abell 2029 is the largest galaxy rests on the photographic evidence that it is a smooth and continuous distribution of light and energy, with the outer regions connected to the bright central core, which emits about a quarter of the light. "Since it's a smooth distribution, the outer part really is connected to the inner part. It's a very large, organised galaxy," he says.

Dr Kuhn worked with colleagues Juan Uson of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Socorro,

New Mexico, and Stephen Boughn of Haverford college in Pennsylvania. Their interest lies in search for the so-called "missing mass" which is one of modern cosmology's greatest puzzles.

The problem is that the mass that is needed to account for the gravitational behaviour of the galaxies and of the universe as a whole is at least ten and maybe as much as 100 times greater than the mass that can actually be observed. Either the theories of gravitation are wrong, or there exists between ten and one hundred times more mass than we can actually see.

Explaining where all this mass is a major problem for astronomers.

The three astronomers say that the density, luminosity and smoothness of the gigantic galaxy they have discovered could provide clues to its origin and to the nature of this dark matter, or missing mass, which ap-

pears to make up the bulk of the universe. They are interested in searching for the faint light from clusters of galaxies that may indicate where this missing mass is.

Some astronomers believe that black holes, vast haloes of invisible hot gas, or large numbers of strange particles like neutrinos make up the missing mass. Others believe that there is much more material in the known galaxies than has yet been allowed for, and that there is no need to search for improbable answers.

This week's claims of a galaxy to dwarf anything previously dreamed of would appear to support this the argument but, as usual in science, more observations will be needed to confirm it.



# Molyneux fears Brooke initiative will not succeed

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AS THE deadlock on the government's initiative on devolution for Northern Ireland continues, Jim Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionist party, has spoken of his fear that the process will not succeed.

Mr Molyneux has not abandoned hope of the "Brooke initiative" producing inter-party talks in the province, but he said he was now more pessimistic about its prospects than at any time since the breakdown on July 5.

Mr Molyneux, who will address his party at its annual conference in Newcastle, Co Down, today, said he was no longer sure that he was right to have accepted the claim by Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland Secretary, made in January at the launch of the initiative, that there was sufficient common ground between the constitutional parties for talks on devolution.

"Maybe, with hindsight, I was at fault for accepting the rather optimistic basis of his speech (at Bangor) on the January 9." Once the process had been started, however, Mr Molyneux was anxious not to disclose his instinctive fears that it would probably come to nothing.

"We kept sounding optimistic and so forth, but we had the nagging fear that someone, somewhere would torpedo the whole operation," he said. He felt the initiative was the latest example of civil servants at the Northern Ireland Office persuading successive secretaries of state to try something, even though political conditions and attitudes had

not changed sufficiently to give the initiative a reasonable chance of success.

In this case, he said, the dispute over the timing of Dublin's involvement with Northern Ireland politicians as part of a three-tiered structure of talks was not a specific problem that had arisen by chance, but a reflection of the continuing deep mistrust between the two communities in Ulster.

Mr Molyneux said that his main fear all along had been that the Brooke process was logically bound to arrive at some form of "permanent compulsory coalition" at Stormont. He believed that it would be unworkable, citing the elections when unionists and nationalists would fight on opposing tickets, only to return to government together — a process he believed made a mockery of the very existence of separate parties.

He also believed that the approach of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour party to its discussions with Mr Brooke had been based throughout on the assumption that Northern Ireland was no longer being treated as part of the United Kingdom. "That's how they based their ideas for a completely new structure which was going to transcend everything else," he said.

"That was all very well for them, but you can't transcend the awkward reality that Northern Ireland is currently a part of the UK, and there's no indication that the vast majority of people, Protestant and Roman Catholic alike,

want to change that status.

"So you can't possibly start from a baseline that Northern Ireland is out on its own, and say 'here's a home handy in the south of Ireland, let's see how we can merge the two together'. That was really the thrust of SDLP philosophy."

Mr Molyneux indicated that he believed a decision either to progress with the initiative or abandon it should be made soon, to put an end to the instability and rumour which, he said, encouraged the activities of the IRA. In the meantime, he would be renewing his efforts to persuade the Northern Ireland Office, and Mr Brooke, to take steps to improve the government of Northern Ireland through the introduction of legislation by parliamentary bills to replace orders in council, and the creation of a select committee, in spite of a decision by Westminster that there would be no such committee.

Mr Thatcher was last night accused of encouraging the IRA by supporting the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Enoch Powell, the former Conservative and Ulster Unionist MP, said that the prime minister's backing of the 1985 agreement meant that she was helping the terrorists to achieve their aim.

Mr Powell added: "It is not her signature, her ink, upon the Anglo-Irish Agreement, which conceded a privileged position in this part of the United Kingdom to the state whose very constitution enshrines the claim which the IRA are prosecuting through violence and murder?"

## 'Dublingate' tape comes back to haunt candidate

By OUR IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

POLITICS in the Irish Republic has always been calmed by the fact that there will probably never be a better one than what has rapidly become known as "Dublingate".

The question is did Brian Lenihan, the deputy prime minister and Fianna Fail presidential candidate, telephone the Irish president on the night of January 27, 1982, to try to persuade him not to dissolve parliament?

Nearly nine years later it may seem a bit late to consider this question. Mr Lenihan's recent answers to it, however, have thrust him and the government into a crisis that might cost him what seemed like a certain victory in the presidential race next month. Worse still, it could lead to a general election if a no-confidence vote in the government succeeds next week.

The suggestion is that senior members of Fianna Fail sought to influence Patrick Hillery, the president, as he considered whether to dis-

solve parliament after the Fine Gael/Labour coalition under Dr Garret Fitzgerald was unexpectedly defeated on a budget motion. This has been subsumed, however, by accusations that Mr Lenihan, who is alleged to have been one of three members of Fianna Fail's front bench that called that night, has lied to the Irish people.

The scandal emerged last Monday on RTE television's *Questions and Answers* programme, Ireland's equivalent of *Question Time*, when Dr Fitzgerald said that the president had been besieged by phone calls from senior Fianna Fail MPs and that Mr Lenihan was among the most persistent. Mr Lenihan, also on the programme, flatly denied making any calls.

Yesterday *The Irish Times* struck what appears to have been a devastating blow to Mr Lenihan when it published a transcript of a taped interview recorded by him last May with a Dublin student. In the

interview he clearly recalls that he was one of three people who phoned Dr Hillery, including the prime minister, Charles Haughey, who was then in opposition. Mr Lenihan now denies that he was talking accurately at the time.

The affair has provoked accusations by government ministers that Mr Lenihan has been the target of a smear campaign by the opposition parties.

Alan Dukes, the Fine Gael leader, who has tabled motions of no confidence in Mr Lenihan and in the government due to be debated next week, says that Mr Lenihan is now not fit to be president. A general election could follow a defeat for the government on the motions if the junior coalition partners, the Progressive Democrats, vote with the opposition. However, the party's poor support in the polls at this stage means that it is unlikely to want to risk an election.

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Notice is given to borrowers whose existing variable rate loan or mortgage was completed before 23rd February 1990 that the rates charged will be reduced by 0.9% on 1st November 1990 (or later in accordance with the mortgage deed).

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1. For those with mortgages between £30,000 and £59,999 where the loan was 75% or less of valuation, the rate charged will be reduced by 0.25% on 1st November 1990.
2. For those with mortgages of £60,000 and above where the loan was 75% or less of valuation, the rate charged will be reduced by 0.6% on 1st November 1990.
3. For those with any other mortgage the rate charged will remain at the current level.

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## Pay problems bring about unlikely talks

Meetings between the unions, employers and government may be a step back to a new way forward, Philip Bassett writes. A TUC idea will be discussed next week

BEER and sandwiches at Number 10? The return of the social contract, the pay concordat? Suddenly, a new, old idea is reintroduced: the prospect of a return to tripartite bargaining over wages, of the government, employers and unions sitting together to talk about incomes.

After a long period of political dormancy, pay is again a political as well as an economic issue. With inflation at 10.9 per cent, unemployment on the rise, interest rates high and Britain now in the exchange-rate mechanism, wage restraint — whether imposed by the disciplines of the ERM, or exhorted by government ministers — is seen as vital to economic recovery.

The cause is that the notion of wages responsibility is coming from the government, employers, and from the unions too. The TUC has submitted a 16-page document, *Europe 1992 and After: Challenges for Britain*, for next week's quarterly meeting of the tripartite National Economic Development Council, to be chaired by Michael Howard, the employment secretary.

Union leaders were divided about the document yesterday. Bill Jordan, president of the AEU engineering union, who will present the paper to the NEDC meeting, said that it was being misinterpreted. He said the thrust of the TUC's case would be the need to talk about adapting the

whole of the economy, not just wages, to the demands of the European single market.

The TUC paper does not advocate a return to full-blown corporatism, to beer and sandwiches with the government. It is a summary of the TUC's position on the economy and Europe, including wages, in the wake of Britain's ERM entry.

TUC insiders say that the use of the word "responsibilities" in relation to pay costs is the key to its position, and wholly different from anything the TUC has said on this issue in ten years. It is close to the idea of more synchronised pay bargaining including a tripartite National Economic Assessment, which the TUC backed at its annual congress. That proposal is linked to a forthcoming Labour government. The TUC's NEDC paper is for next week, for discussion with this — Conservative — government.

The dispute within the TUC which exploded yesterday after the disclosure of the paper in *The Times* may lead to pressure for it to be withdrawn. Whether or not the paper's remarks on pay bear the weight of interpretation that union leaders like John Edmonds of the GMB general union are placing upon them, what is clear is

that the unions are united in a fear of job losses after ERM entry. Mr Edmonds is talking of possible losses of 300,000 jobs. John Bannham, CBI director-general, is forecasting that a million jobs could go unless the unions do bargain responsibly. The unions are opposed to more unemployment: socially, because they believe it is wrong, and economically, because it would add still further to the 4 million members they have lost in the past decade.

Some unions have more than a hankering after more centralised, co-ordinated, responsible wage bargaining. It is hard to see it happening for a range of reasons, including: ● Internal union divisions. Left-wing union leaders like Ken Gill of MSF do not like any form of incomes policy. Right-wingers like Gavin Laird of the AEU engineering workers would not want to see the wages of its highly-skilled, highly-paid members squeezed. ● Union density. Union coverage is so much less now than when there was last centralised pay planning. At the end of the 1970s, density stood at 50 per cent, now it is 37 per cent. In the private sector, where any pay responsibility

would need to bite hardest to work, it is 27 per cent. Non-union employees, the majority of the UK workforce, would not be affected, except by unionised wages dragging them along. Even then, the non-union sector tends to settle higher than the union sector.

● Bargaining structure. This year will be the first pay round without one of the giants of national, centralised bargaining: the national-level deal in the engineering industry. Its disappearance is typical. Pay bargaining is more localised. That would not sit easily with any national pay co-ordination.

● Union legislation. Union ability to deliver members' votes, crucial to many unionised employers when they want to sell a pay deal to employees, is much less than it was a decade ago.

There is a growing recognition that Britain's ERM entry will mark a fundamental change to pay bargaining.

In terms of job losses and wage levels, that change could hurt. Limiting the hurt is something on which government, employers and the unions could agree.

□ Calls by ministers or employers for lower pay increases are largely ineffective, the chairman of the govern-

ment's principal industrial relations body said yesterday. Douglas Smith, chairman of Acas, the conciliation service, also said that pressure from the Confederation of British Industry for a large-scale reduction in unit labour costs was unrealistic, and unlikely to be achieved.

Ministers, led by John Major, the Chancellor, and Michael Howard, the employment secretary, have been urging wage bargainers to reach lower pay settlements after Britain's entry into ERM.

Mr Smith, speaking in Harrogate to the annual conference of the Institute of Personnel Management, said: "I know of no evidence in the post-war period that exhortation has made a blind bit of difference to employee expectations or employer behaviour."

He accepted that the ERM would exert a fierce discipline on wage bargaining, but was sceptical about CBI calls that the link between pay rises and inflation must be broken this year. Lord McCarthy, Labour's employment spokesman in the Lords, was doubtful that ERM entry would have a coercive effect on wages in the next six months.

He said that settlements had risen by 27 per cent since the start of last year's wage round. Previous pay explosions in 1971-72 and 1974-75 had led to the imposition of incomes policies.

Unleashed from mast, page 13



Protesters vowing to fight on yesterday: Mr Crocker, left, Mrs Bryant, Mr Beckett and Mr Denton-Thompson

## Court rejects protest over M3 route

By NICHOLAS WAIT

CAMPAIGNERS who had tried to prevent the transport department from driving the M3 through the scenic Twyford Down in Hampshire failed at the High Court yesterday when Mr Justice McCullough refused to quash the scheme.

He said the protesters had not put forward any legal arguments that could stop the scheme, and added that to have quashed it would have delayed an important part of the motorway. He ordered the campaigners to pay costs, estimated at £100,000. They were given 21 days to lodge notice of an appeal.

Barbara Bryant, the Winchester housewife who led the campaign against the Twyford motorway extension, said after the hearing that she was very disappointed. "It is a David and Goliath situation but we all know what happened in the end there. We will pursue every avenue that is open to us to ensure that this environmental vandalism and bureaucratic corruption is stopped."

The options included appealing to the prime minister's "environmental conscience", an appeal through the courts, or taking the case to the European Commission.

The campaigners, who have a £75,000 fighting fund, had wanted the transport department to spend an extra £90 million to run the final section of the M3 through a tunnel under the downland instead of through a 400ft-wide and 100ft-deep cutting that was approved in February. The down is the last open piece of chalk surrounding Winchester, and is part of the east Hampshire area of outstanding natural beauty. It has two scheduled ancient monuments and is an area of special scientific interest.

Mrs Bryant, aged 45, said that the original route decision was made ten years ago on incorrect information. Since then there had been confusion between public enquiries and consultations. John Browne, the city's Conservative MP, accused the transport department of bullying the people of Winchester.

"We have a government caring about the environment, but when it comes to big money they are not prepared to act," he said. There had been very serious misgivings within the environment department over the Twyford issue, Mr Browne said, but they had lost the battle with the transport department.

Mr Browne praised the way in which the judge had gone into the law in great depth to

reach a "balanced and fair view". Mr Justice McCullough had stressed that it was not for the court to decide on the merits of one route or another. The court's sole function, he said, was to decide whether the environment secretary, Chris Patten, and the transport secretary, Cecil Parkinson, had "misunderstood or misapplied" the law in approving the scheme.

The judge rejected the campaigners' argument that by approving the scheme the government had ignored a 1988 legally binding EC directive requiring member states to make an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on projects that affect the environment. It did not apply to schemes in the pipeline.

The challenge was also brought by David Crocker, aged 58, a Winchester city councillor; Merrick Denton-Thompson, aged 42, Hampshire's county landscape architect; and the parish councils of Twyford and Compton and Shawford.

Winchester

Bar End

St. Catherine's Hill

Final section of M3

Cutting through Twyford Down

1 mile

## Liverpool to face unions on job cuts

By RONALD FAUX

WITH a £12 million budget deficit and the shadow of the district auditor looming over Liverpool, the city council is preparing for confrontation with the powerful town hall unions as redundancies are planned to cut costs.

Recent increases in council rents are not expected to raise sufficient revenue to close the gap in council spending. Cuts in the 29,000-strong council workforce are now believed to be the only alternative open to the council, to avoid the worst situation since the days of Militant control.

Up to 1,000 redundancies are expected in the attempt to balance the city council's books. The council is Liverpool's biggest employer. High interest rates, increased fuel costs and a fall in the value of property and land the council was prepared to put on the market have all added to the

fall in council income. The return from poll tax payments of less than 45 per cent has added to the projected deficit. Loans from Japanese and Swiss banks taken out during the Militant regime account for repayments this year of £16 million in interest charges alone.

A recent financial review from the city treasurer speaks of intervention by the district auditor if the city's deficit is not dealt with, and of the possibility that Liverpool councillors will face disqualification and financial penalties.

The unions have indicated that they will resist attempts to make redundancies. Industrial action is being planned this month unless the council gives an assurance that there will be no compulsory redundancies, and an all-out strike could be called if jobs are lost.

## Prisoner loses court battle over letters

A PRISONER yesterday lost a court battle to stop prison authorities reading his private legal correspondence.

Mark Leech, jailed for six years at the High Court in Liverpool on August 7, 1987, and serving a three-year sentence in Blunderton prison, England, claimed that his rights were being violated. He said that prisoners were entitled to have "unimpeded access" to the courts.

Leech challenged Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, who maintained that Scottish prison authorities were entitled to read and, if thought fit, stop written correspondence between a prisoner and his lawyer.

Leech claimed this rule was unlawful and asked the Court of Session to declare that a prisoner was entitled to unimpeded and uncensored correspondence with his legal advisers about potential legal proceedings. Yesterday, Lord Caplan

said the rule to manage and regulate prisoners was very wide in its terms. There was little doubt that convicted prisoners retained all civil rights which were not taken away expressly. Those rights included unimpeded access to the courts. If the prisoner did not have reasonable access to legal advice, he might be prevented from going to court.

However, Lord Caplan added: "There is a distinction between a right of access and a right to access in a manner which suited his convenience."

In reality, said the judge, a prisoner under our system could not enjoy the unrestricted access to legal advice which was available to the ordinary citizen who was not in prison. What was essential was that the prisoner should have the opportunity for private communication with his lawyer.

Lord Caplan rejected Leech's case.

## Student questioned on shooting

Detectives investigating IRA shootings in Staffordshire were last night still holding one of four students who were detained for questioning under the Prevention of Terrorism Act two days ago.

The four students from the Staffordshire polytechnic in Stafford who were held on Thursday included a man, aged 22, with an address in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Three were released yesterday without charge.

The four had been detained during enquiries into the IRA shooting of Sir Peter Terry, the former governor of Gibraltar, who was seriously hurt in an attack at his home in Millford, near Stafford.

## Strike action by lecturers

MEMBERS of the largest lecturers' union in polytechnics and colleges of higher education are to stage a series of lightning strikes after rejecting a pay increase of 9.1 per cent. The first national half-day strike will take place on November 6.

In a national ballot conducted by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, 90 per cent of voters rejected the pay offer and 73 per cent backed strike action.

## Trial delayed

The trial in Bangkok of Patricia Cahill, aged 17, who denies attempting to smuggle heroin, was delayed for the second time yesterday because police witnesses did not come to court.

She and Karen Smith, aged 19, both from Birmingham, face the same charges, but are being tried separately. Karen Smith says she is innocent, but will plead guilty because Thai courts are lenient with defendants who admit guilt.

## Body found

Police searching for two missing schoolboys found a boy's body in a water-filled quarry only 200 yards from their home in Newbold on Avon, near Rugby, Warwickshire, yesterday. Police were joined by more than 100 volunteers as they searched for Michael Wood, aged six, and Germaine Fraser, aged ten. The search began on Thursday night after the children's parents reported them missing.

## Chess draw

The sixth game of the world chess championship in New York between Gary Kasparov (white) and Anatoly Karpov (black) was declared drawn overnight without further play. Kasparov had sealed move 42 (Rc8) and offered a draw, which Karpov accepted. Kasparov now leads by 3½ points to 2½.

Saturday review, page 61

## MP's transplant

Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for Newbury, was yesterday recovering from a kidney transplant operation. Believed to be the first MP to have a kidney transplant, he nearly died from kidney failure in 1984.

By the way, the British...  
Australia...  
Germany...  
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Netherlands...  
Norway...  
Portugal...  
South Korea...  
Taiwan...  
Thailand...  
Turkey...  
Yugoslavia...



# Young witnesses tell Marsh jury of hooded figure

By MICHAEL HORNELL

CHILDREN who saw a hooded figure waiting on a pavement in the dark minutes before the shooting of the boxer promoter Frank Warren decided to tell the jury that a hooded figure was seen yesterday.

The encounter was related at the Central Criminal Court yesterday where the former world boxing champion Terry Marsh, aged 32, is accused of attempting to murder Mr Warren, his former manager, on November 30 last year.

Bradley Parsons, aged 17, told of the encounter with the hooded man minutes before the shooting. He said: "I decided to go and speak to him. I got up close. He was wearing a green army-like jacket that was really long, just above the knees. I asked him the time. He said something, but I didn't hear him because

of the scarf. I couldn't understand him.

"He then pulled his right hand out of his pocket and showed me his watch. He was wearing black leather gloves and underneath the gloves was this thing - you could see coming out of the gloves at the wrists.

The youngsters went away but decided to return to see if the man was still there. Bradley said: "He was still in the same place and I went up to him again. The others came with me this time. I asked him what he was waiting for. He said he was waiting for his mates. He was going to go down the club. I asked him his name. He just said Paul."

John Richardson, aged 14, told the court that he listened as his friend had the brief conversation with the man and added: "The man who I saw reminded me of someone."

He reminded me of Terry Marsh. I had seen him in the flesh at a swimming pool in Dagenham because he was there training to be a stuntman. We were at the pool together about one and a half hours. I spoke to him at the pool.

The boy, who said he had seen the boxer on television, added: "The man I had seen that night reminded me of Terry Marsh. It was the same sort of build and height. I am not sure about the voice, because when I saw him at the theatre it was behind a scarf so it was a bit muffled. But it was a local sort of voice."

Under cross-examination by Richard Ferguson, QC, for Mr Marsh, who denies the charge, John Richardson agreed that in a statement he made to police after the shooting he did not mention that the strange figure bore any resemblance to the boxer.

Earlier John Botos, a partner of Mr Warren in the London Arena complex, described how he heard a bang he took to be a car backfiring when he and Mr Warren arrived in their chauffeur-driven Bentley at the Broadway theatre. He heard another shot and saw Mr Warren clutching his side before he noticed a man in a mask holding a gun.

Mr Botos said: "It actually hadn't occurred to me Frank had been shot. He turned 180 degrees and started to run away, running alongside the Bentley and then in between it and a Jaguar in front. I saw him run on to the pavement which had a grassy bank next to it, and as he ran, he started to stumble and finally collapsed."

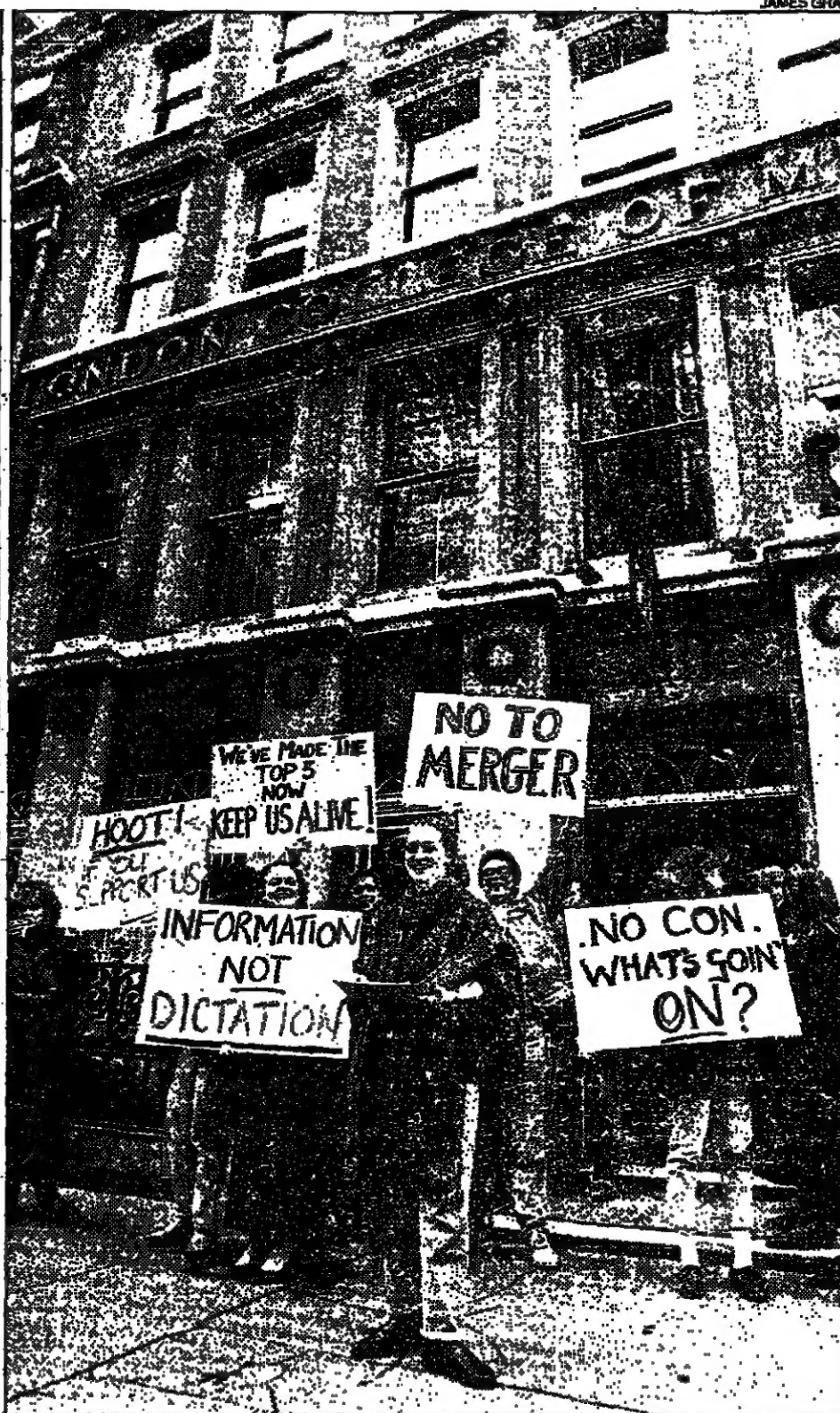
As Frank started to run off, the gunman started to follow. I saw most clearly the gun which I supposed finally convinced me that Frank had in fact been shot.

"It seemed to me that the gunman was intent on shooting him again. I didn't want this to happen so I moved to intercept the gunman between the two cars, which is where we made contact."

"I pushed the gunman against the Jaguar and he then pushed me off and ran away. I particularly remember him running away, because he ran very fast and very athletically."

Asked if he could see the gunman's face after the two men had grappled with each other, Mr Botos said: "I simply put my head down and ran at the gunman. I was not trying to catch his identity, I was trying to stop the gunman killing Frank Warren."

The trial continues on Monday.



Note of discord: students demonstrating outside the London College of Music yesterday over merger plans with Ealing college of higher education, west London

## £1bn programme to build hospitals halted by slump

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE £1 billion-a-year National Health Service hospital building programme has been held up by the slump in the property market, a minister has disclosed.

About £200 million of the programme covering 450 schemes at various stages of development depends on regional health authorities selling off surplus land. Because of the slump, health regions in London and the South-East are having particular difficulty in raising enough money to proceed with their plans and are being forced to delay big projects.

The official admission that the health service would have to shoulder its share of the burden of the property slump came from Stephen Dorrell, a junior health minister. He was being badgered by a group of Tory MPs from Essex, who are furious over the decision by North-East Thames region to cancel plans costing £40 million to bring the Princess Alexandra hospital together on one site in Harlow.

Mr Dorrell told them: "It is unrealistic to expect the NHS investment programme to escape unscathed the implications of falling land values. That pressure applies right across the economy." It is understood that the late-night Commons debate earlier this week was followed by an angry meeting between the MPs, led by Jerry Hayes, MP for Harlow, at which they complained about the sudden postponement of big new hospital developments.

Cancellations such as Harlow's are bound to prove worrying to Conservative MPs in marginal seats. North-East Thames is among four Thames regions covering London and the South-East which have been forced to stop any new building schemes other than those already begun or for which contracts have been signed.

Mr Hayes pointed out that the Princess Alexandra project had been halted after the local health district had raised £20 million from a fiercely contested sale of a local hospital. He told the minister: "We want some money - and what is more, we want our money. Last night the health department was unable to say how many hospital schemes had been delayed."

## Christian links with Jews 'are ignored'

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

CHRISTIANS of all denominations have, at times, ignored their profound relationship with the Jewish people, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark says in a pastoral letter to be read at all masses tomorrow.

The Most Rev Michael Bowen, whose letter marks the 25th anniversary of the Vatican text *Nostra Aetate*, says that Christians must find practical ways to better understand the followers of all religions, and especially Jewish people. The death of Jesus is not to be blamed on Jewish people, he says. "The church places special emphasis on our relationship with the Jewish people. Jesus himself was a Jew."

The Archbishop describes *Nostra Aetate*, or *In Our Age*, as "an historic statement about non-Christian religions". The document arose from the desire of Pope John XXIII to heal wounds caused by centuries of Christian anti-Semitism.

More than 200 people of all major faiths are expected to attend a celebration at Westminster cathedral hall today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the document, which was the first positive official statement made by an ecumenical council on the status and values of the world's major religions.

## Reagan on the path to peace

"We sat down beside the blazing hearth, just the two of us and our interpreters, and I told Gorbachev that he and I were in a unique position at a unique time: Here you and I are, probably the only two men in the world who could bring about World War III, by the same token, we may be the only two men who could perhaps bring about peace."

In *The Sunday Times* tomorrow, Ronald Reagan - in an extract from his autobiography - recalls his first meeting with the Soviet leader.

## Paris fashions a revival

"Paris fashion, at the spring collections, went against the prevailing timid mood and scaled heights of glamour that would have made Cecil B DeMille proud."

Tomorrow, *The Sunday Times* examines how Paris bounced back behind closed palace doors.

"King Edward VIII dubbed it the 'Auntie' because so many of his elderly relatives lived there."

In *The Sunday Times* tomorrow, Brian Hovell provides an inside look at Kensington Palace

## Mortgage fraudster jailed for six years

By ROBIN YOUNG

A FINANCIAL consultant was jailed for six years yesterday for his part in a web of conspiracies involving mortgage frauds worth £160 million.

Southwark Crown Court was told that Nasrullah Khan, aged 47, of Cambridge, a financial consultant and mortgage broker, had unlawfully obtained mortgages worth £1.38 million. Living on the proceeds of fraud he had bought a six-bedroom house, his three daughters were in private education and he drove a Mercedes.

Khan and an accomplice, Surjit Sagoo, aged 33, a shopkeeper of Clapham, southwest London, obtained mortgages from building societies and other financial institutions by using fictitious names, and surveys which gave properties inflated values, the court was told.

Sagoo, who obtained mortgages worth £247,000, was jailed for two years and ordered to pay £5,000 costs. A call for the 7,000 officers in England and Wales to be balloted on industrial action was unanimously endorsed by the National Association of Probation Officers' annual conference, which is being held in Brighton.

The conference was also told that there might be a militant reaction from officers over government plans to privatise a remand centre, and to the Home Office's refusal to substantially increase staffing levels in probation hospitals.

John Roberts, chairman of the association, said officers were working an average of 42½ hours a week, five hours more than they should, and did not get paid overtime. Strike action by probation officers would delay many court proceedings and could mean the withdrawal of supervision of offenders, serving community punishments. The delegates agreed to oppose the

## Probation officers make strike threat over pay

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PROBATION officers yesterday threatened national industrial action over a pay claim to compensate them for working nights and weekends.

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government's decision to invite private firms to tender for the management of Everthorpe, remand centre on Humberside. Proposing the motion, Peter Wright, of the Humberside Probation Service, said the move was an obscenity. "It doesn't need the Corrections Corporation of America or Securix to provide proper toilet facilities in prisons or proper regimes for remand prisoners who may be locked up for 23 hours a day," he said.

The 900 delegates also urged the department to ensure that every probation hostel should have a minimum of two officers on duty, and called for anti-sexism training for all staff.

Women probation officers working in prisons said they were the butt of sexually explicit comments and jokes, and were "touched up" by colleagues. Jackie Hutchinson, a probation officer at Ford open prison, near Arundel, West Sussex, said: "An atmosphere of oppression prevails where power is all

made in an extremely macho way." She added: "In prisons, reality is skewed, emotions and behaviour tend to be exaggerated and heightened. Macho behaviour is the norm, and constitutes the power base."

Ms Hutchinson said: "Sexism operates in overt and covert ways, manifesting itself in language and behaviour which operates daily, and on all levels, coming from prison officers, inmates and colleagues."

Tony Mercer, a South Yorkshire probation officer on secondment to Lindholme prison, Doncaster, said that some male probation officers were openly sexist towards female colleagues.

The conference also urged that women probation officers should only work in male prisons by consent, and that they should be able to leave without damaging their careers. Naps should provide support and advice to women members who were victims of sexual harassment and sexism in prisons.

The application has split the Conservative-led Cherwell district council. A decision of a planning referrals committee to reject the Coca-Cola plan is to be considered at a full meeting of the authority's 52 members on Monday after 19 councillors, Conservative and Labour, signed a motion calling for it to be reversed.

Supporters of the proposed one million square feet development claim that its rejection will deny significant economic benefits and up to 650 jobs to the market town of 40,000 people. Opponents have alleged that it would increase heavy traffic and create a potential risk of air pollution from a process to paint drink cans.

The company said yesterday it wanted the new site to supply the market for soft drinks in southern England and insisted that fears of opponents were groundless. If it is denied permission to build in Banbury, it is widely expected that it will go to Northampton, where it has planning permission on an alternative site.

Patrick Burke, Cherwell council's assistant chief planner, said that 60 of the 80 acres of the proposed site was an area of high landscape value. A grade two listed farmhouse and the remains of a medieval village, which Coca-Cola had

offered to excavate, would be affected by the development, which would also lead to an estimated 1,700 heavy vehicle movements a day.

Coca-Cola Schweppes is facing opposition to its attempts to get planning permission for a £150 million factory on a site north of the town and close to the M40 extension from Oxford to Birmingham, which is nearing completion. The plant will produce soft drinks and cans would be made on the site.

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## Scientists in cold fusion dispute

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A DISPUTE has broken out between two scientists who claim to have discovered an inexhaustible source of energy and the state of Utah, which has spent \$5 million (£2.6 million) supporting their work.

Stanley Pons, of Utah university, and Martin Fleischmann, of Southampton university, the inventors of cold fusion, failed to attend a meeting this week in Salt Lake City to review their work and determine whether to continue supporting it. There were reports that both men had gone to ground.

Professor Fleischmann said yesterday that he had not been told about the meeting and that "everybody in Utah" knew where he was and how to get in touch with him. "If I am asked to go back, I will travel," he said.

He would be happy to discuss his work with the four-member review panel set up by the state of Utah. "The only limitation is that our work is the subject of patent applications and that limits what we can say about it," he said.

Officials of Utah university and the National Cold Fusion Institute in Salt Lake City told the *New York Times* last week that they could not find either of the two scientists.

Fritz Will, director of the institute where the two are employed, said that there had been a breakdown in communication and it had become clear that the two doctors "in contrast to their repeated declarations, are unwilling to

co-operate with the institute or the state committee in participating in any useful review of their work."

In March last year Professor Pons and Professor Fleischmann said they had found a way of fusing light atoms in a test tube to provide enormous amounts of energy. The claim created much excitement until it became clear that other scientists could not duplicate it, and today few scientists believe in it.

Professor Fleischmann said yesterday that he and his colleague were completely

confident about the science. "It's unbelievable that people should still question this work," he denied reports that Professor Pons had disappeared from Salt Lake City leaving no forwarding address. "They know perfectly well how to get in touch with him," he said.

The point of contact with both scientists is through Garry Triggs, their American lawyer, who said last week that Professor Pons had asked for a year's sabbatical from the university to work on the project.



Fleischmann: "Everyone knows where I am"

## Frozen passport to a kind of eternity

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

TWO hundred years from now, Alan Sinclair expects to be out and about shopping, visiting the cinema and drinking with his local public house with his wife and eldest son.

He has joined delegates and scientists from across Europe and the United States for the first European Cryonics Conference which opens today at Warwick. They will discuss topics such as the legal status of being frozen before clinical death and techniques to preserve tissue without damaging ice-crystal formation. Being frozen while healthy, they believe, could increase chances of a successful resurrection.

A fit-looking computer engineer, aged 52, from near Eastbourne, Mr Sinclair has put £300,000 towards estab-

lishing a freezing facility near Gatwick, which he believes will be a passport to a kind of eternity. When the doctors pronounce Mr Sinclair clinically dead, he will be sent to Gatwick where his corpse will be pumped with preservative fluids and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Some 24 hours later, his body will be in the Alcor Life Extension Foundation based in Riverside, California, after a flight in a specially designed cabinet.

When medical science and technology has advanced sufficiently he believes that he and his family will be brought back to life.

"It is a gamble but I believe a realistic one," Mr Sinclair said. "I do not think there is much choice. There will come a time when medicine will be

able to do nothing and once you are buried or cremated, that's it."

Before approaching insurance agents for a policy to cover the \$120,000 needed for a whole body freeze, Mr Sinclair consulted three British doctors on issues of clinical death and the preservation procedures used by American organisations offering eternity services, Alcor, Trans Time and the Cryonics Institute.

Mr Sinclair said: "They all felt it was futuristic but believed it may have a chance. When I contacted the local coroner I expected a laughing bag but he had heard of cryonics and had been expecting it to come here. He said there was no law against it."

Mike Darwin, director of research at Alcor, said that the

increasing interest in Europe and the more relaxed laws in Britain, make it likely that European members will be stored at Gatwick by the turn of the century rather than in California. He talks of the service being more an unorthodox method of patient care capable of cutting hospital waiting lists.

Mr Sinclair has opted for a whole body freeze because "I liked the idea of being a good looking corpse" but many of the 190 United States and some of the 12 British members who have signed-up, have chosen to have their heads frozen for just \$45,000.

They believe that emerging technologies will be able to mend damaged cells and clone back the person's body from brain cells.

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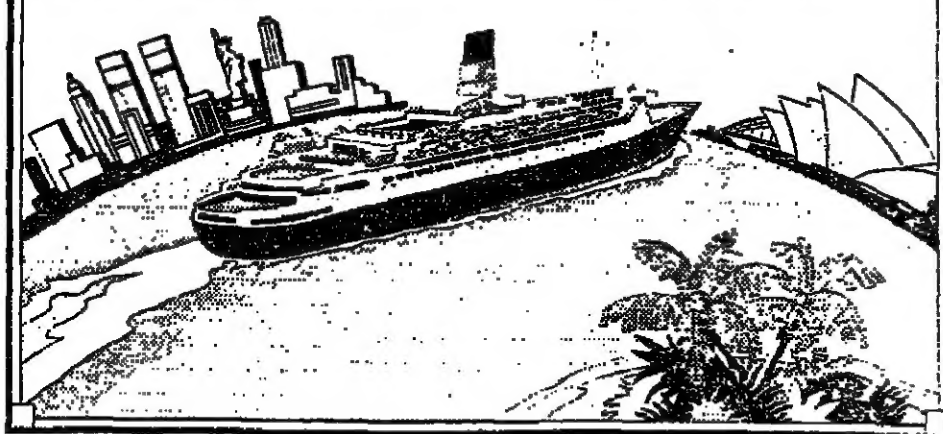
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# Dorchester to open its doors after £100m refurbishment

ANY day now John West, doorman at the Dorchester, will be back on duty, replacing security men who have guarded the hotel through its two-year closure for refurbishment. The drifts of gold leaf swirling in dusty corners are a sign that the hotel's ordeal by builders is almost over. The gilders are the last craftsmen on a flow chart of works that have stripped the place down to the buff.

Yesterday the Duke of Edinburgh marked the re-opening by unveiling a plaque commemorating his stay night held there in November 1947.

Refitting the hotel is taking longer than the 18 months it took "Concrete Bob" McAlpine to put it up in 1931. Newspaper headlines repeated his claim that it was a building that neither bombs nor earthquakes could destroy.

When war came, the Dorchester became the smartest air-raid shelter in London. General Eisenhower and several members of the British cabinet made it their domestic headquarters in the capital.

Soon the fountain will twinkle in the front garden and Mr West, wearing a dark green uniform coat with green and yellow striped waistcoat, will hand the first guests up the steps and in to a foyer unchanged, if fresh

**As the most bomb-proof hotel in London prepares to reopen, Shona Crawford Poole looks behind the glitter and bows.**

paint and bright new gilding are discounted. The expanse of gilded promenade through the centre of the hotel, is also as it was. Little has been done to alter the appearance of other public rooms.

Restoration of the rooms created as fantasy interiors to dispel post-war gloom by Oliver Messel, the theatrical designer, has been done with reference to his original designs. Lord Snowden, his nephew, inherited many of the drawings, and John Claridge, one of his assistants on the project, had kept the colour swatches.

Those searching for novelty will find a few additions such as a pair of antique marble hand-basins in the ladies room, remarkable for their loveliness and their cost, at £16,000 each.

All the glamorous front-of-the-house buffing is the icing on this vast refurbishment project. Before the builder, Sir Robert McAlpine, contractor to the

Sultan of Brunei, the present owner, could send his men in, the removers had to take the furniture out.

In went an army of workmen, radios blaring, dust churning. Miles of protective sheeting were taped to painted pillars.

The Dorchester's taps had been a dripping trial to the management for 20 years although the plumbing had been the last word in modernity in 1931. Out it came and in went pale marble bathrooms fixed with what may well be the biggest, deepest, baths in London.

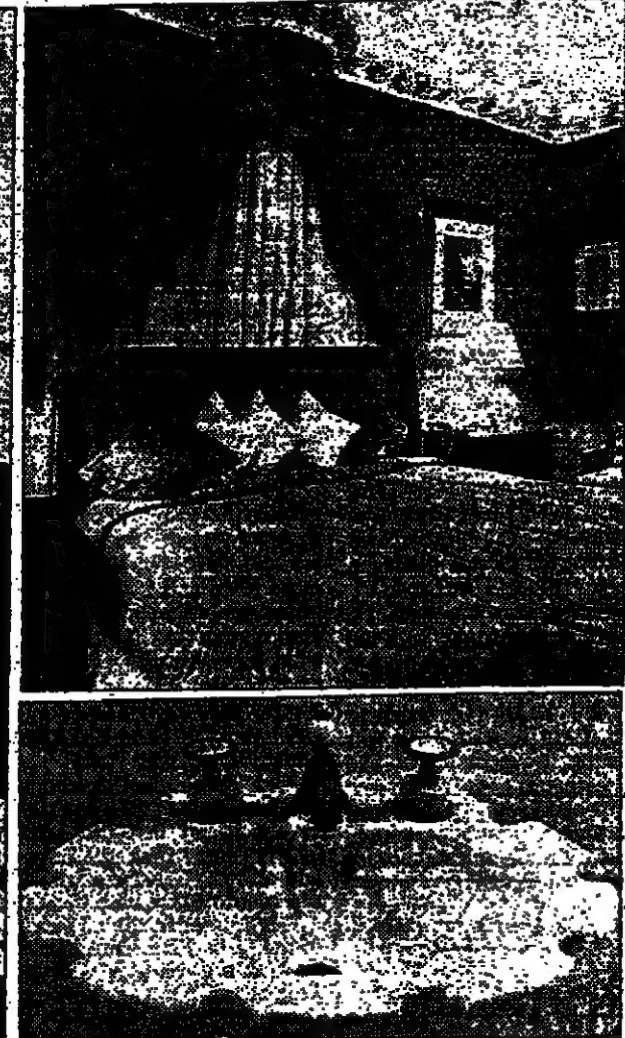
Most of the suites and bedrooms have been refurbished in English country house style with four-poster beds and chintz. Triple glazed windows can be opened to offer a choice of fresh air or silence. There are also some bedrooms furnished along clean 1930s lines which I find particularly attractive.

By the time the bill comes in the building will have swallowed 50km of piping, 20km of cornice, 10,000 rolls of wallpaper, 50,000 sheets of gold leaf, 850 diamanté bows to decorate the ballroom mirrors, and 249 of those baths.

When the bill comes in it will be for about £100 million, plus a penalty payment for the six-month over-run on the building contract.



Grandeur and glamour: the Duke of Edinburgh after unveiling a plaque at the newly refurbished Dorchester hotel in Park Lane, London. Top right, the bedrooms freshly painted and refitted and, below right, marble hand-basins remove the plumbing trials of 20 years



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## Defiant Lords face clash on broadcast bill

By JOHN LEWIS

IN A rare display of defiance, the Lords is to challenge the government over its refusal to force the new commercial television companies to include documentaries and education and social action programmes in their schedules.

Baroness David, the Labour peeress, with the support of crossbenchers, is putting down the new amendment to the broadcasting bill, due to be heard on Tuesday, which would write into the legislation a requirement that the new Channel 3 television companies must carry these distinct types of programmes. Broadcasters and many organisations are worried that with the introduction of a more competitive regime in commercial television, expensive documentaries, education and social action programmes will be the first to go.

The new amendment will be almost identical to the one from the Lords struck from the bill in the Commons earlier this week.

Government business managers assumed that after this week's clear rejection by MPs, peers would follow normal practice and accept the change as a formality. Baroness David has decided otherwise.

If her amendment is carried it will return, with the bill, to the Commons again, putting

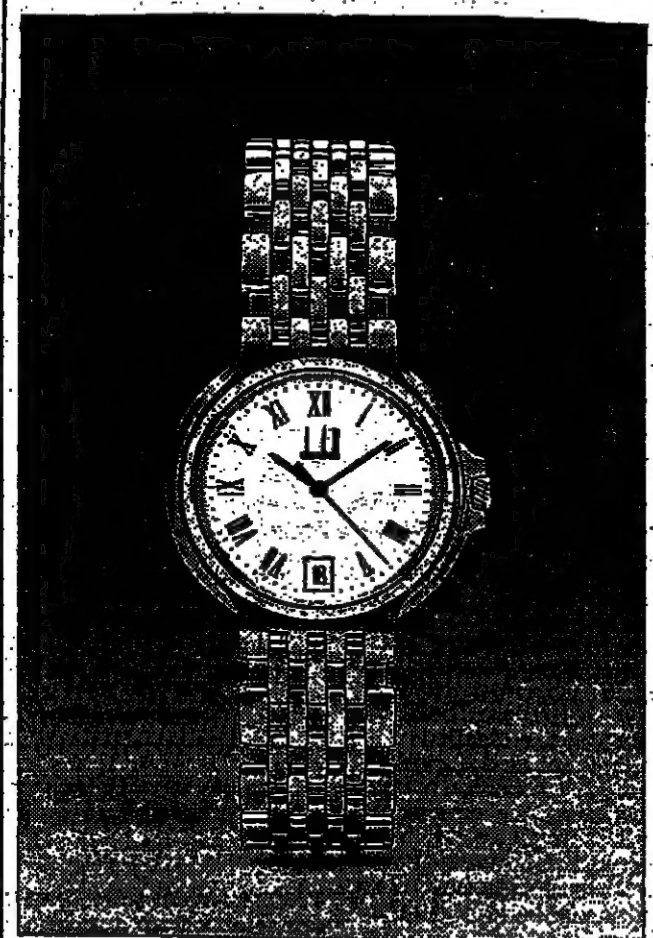
at risk the government's entire timetable, and Commons prerogative planned for next Thursday.

Baroness David said yesterday that there was strong feeling about this issue. A delegation which met Mrs Thatcher last week was supported by more than 30 organisations, including the United Nations Association, Community Service Volunteers, Age Concern, the National Children's Homes and national bodies for the deaf and blind.

"There is no question of privilege in what we are doing and I think we are quite justified in acting the way we are," Baroness David said. "We hope the government will accept our proposals, particularly as it is running out of time."

The only change in the new amendment is that it will ask for the types of programmes to be scheduled by Channel 3 companies and not Channel 3 and 5 franchise holders.

David Mellor, the arts minister, who is responsible for the bill, said last night in a Commons written answer that he had received 120 representations from members of the public or organisations urging the government not to reverse the Lords amendments.



**INDIVIDUALITY.** A CLASSIC TIMEPIECE THAT REPRESENTS THE PINNACLE OF THE WATCHMAKERS' ART. THE STEEL AND YELLOW METAL ELITE. PART OF A COMPLETE RANGE OF WATCHES FROM ALFRED DUNHILL.

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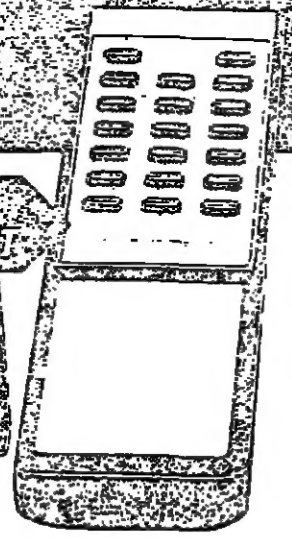
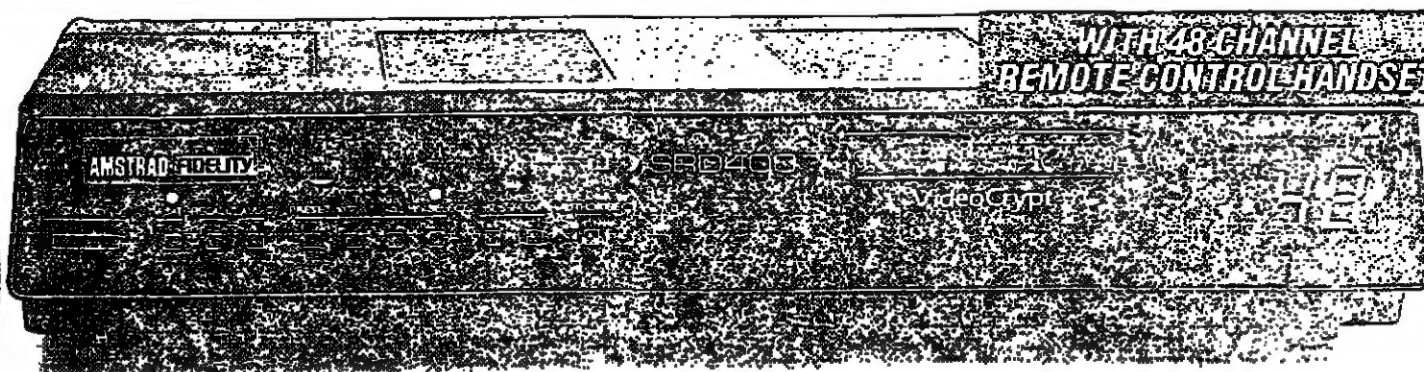
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## Plaid Cymru pledges to continue poll tax battle

WELSH nationalists voted yesterday to continue their campaign against the poll tax and attacked Labour-controlled councils for sending in bailiffs to the homes of defaulters.

Delegates at Plaid Cymru's annual conference in Cardiff were told that Labour had betrayed the Welsh people. Laura McAllister, a member of the party's national executive, said that Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, had aided and abetted the prime minister. "It is his councils, his councillors that have done more to implement the imposition of the poll tax than if Margaret Thatcher had signed the court summonses herself," she said.

"It is a shameful act of betrayal from this party that pretends to speak for the people of Wales."

She said that 31 of the 38 MPs in Wales opposed the tax, which had been rejected by 75 per cent of Welsh voters.

Delegates gave a standing ovation to the Scottish MP Dick Douglas who left the Labour party to join the Scottish National party over Labour's stand on the poll tax.

He accused Mr Kinnock of duplicity in not backing those Scottish MPs in his party who refused to pay their poll tax.

"Voters in Scotland and Wales will not be let down in any way by looking to the SNP and Plaid Cymru for political leadership," Mr Douglas said. He forecast that widespread discontent at Labour's performance in opposing the tax would lead to heavy nationalist gains at the next election.

Geraint Davies, a Plaid Cymru councillor in Rhondda Valley, had deliberately selected him as a target by sending bailiffs to his house less than four hours after a liability order was obtained against him. "The Tories may have imposed the law but it was the Labour party who carried it to its evil extreme."

Dafydd Thomas, the Plaid Cymru president, called for a peaceful solution to the Gulf confrontation in a speech to the conference. The MP for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy said that international sanctions against Iraq should be given longer to work.

The thoughts of everyone had to be with hostages, families and forces in the Gulf zone, many of whom were from Wales. Referring to the Argentine bombing of the Sir Galahad, in which the Welsh Guards suffered the heaviest casualties of the Falklands war, Mr Thomas said: "Our duty is to work to ensure a peaceful resolution of this new crisis, so no more families in Wales or elsewhere will have to suffer grief and loss."

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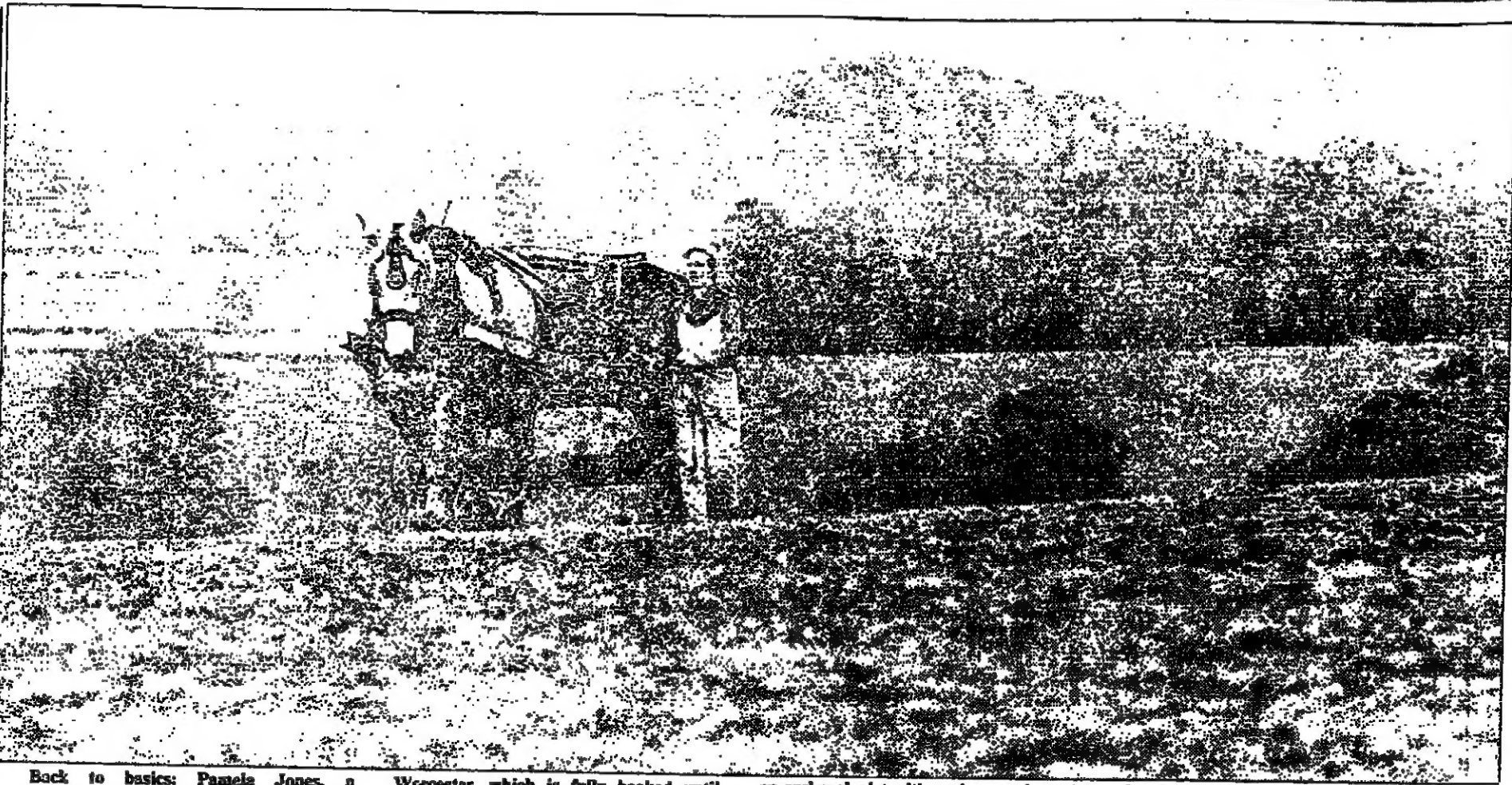
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Back to basics: Pamela Jones, a smallholder from Rhosgoch, Powys, learning to control a heavy horse, once a stalwart of British farming which may be making a comeback.

She is one of six students on a course in handling heavy horse at the Holme Lacy agricultural college in Hereford and

Worcester, which is fully booked until February as interest in using them in small woodlands grows (Craig Seton writes).

Two of the other students on the most recent five-day course at Holme Lacy are former farmworkers who had been in charge of heavy horses many years ago and wanted to work with them again. One was

an archaeologist with an interest in early horsemanship, and two simply wanted to learn how to use the animals in forestry.

The students learn to handle heavy horses on the college's 650-acre estate. Iain Hitchison, the course co-ordinator, said using mechanised means in woodlands was too expensive, while a heavy

horse and tack would cost £3,000 and £25 a week to maintain.

He added: "A tractor can cost £20,000 and might be worn out after five years, but you could expect 20 years' work from a good horse." He said the course was the only one recognised by the joint national committee of heavy horse breeds societies.

## Audit office finds £170m error in benefit payments

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MORE than £170 million was wrongly paid to benefit claimants because of official errors last year, according to the National Audit Office. Some people received more money than they should have had, others got less.

The high level of errors means that John Bourn, the comptroller and auditor general, has decided to qualify the social security department's 1989-90 accounts on income support for the unemployed, and family credit.

The audit office's study of the accounts showed that nearly a quarter of the family credit cases and 14.4 per cent of the income support cases contained errors. The report, published yesterday, showed income support overpayments of almost £88 million and underpayments of £57 million. Another £20 million

had been overpaid for family credit and nearly £6 million underpaid.

Mr Bourn blamed the income support mistakes on local social security offices miscalculating entitlement and on the employment department's failure to stop income support payments to claimants no longer assessed as unemployed.

The family credit mistakes were due to the department's failure to get enough evidence on the claimants' earnings, Mr Bourn said. "Other over- or underpayments were due to a variety of clerical mistakes by staff calculating awards."

The social security department said claimants who were underpaid would receive their full entitlement, although those given too much money would not be required to pay it back. The department would

examine the report and monitor the situation.

The Child Poverty Action Group said that an underpayment, however small, would have serious consequences for individual claimants, leaving them to cope on an income below the poverty line. "The new social security system was intended to be simpler to administer but this error level shows that the intrinsic problems of means-testing continue."

Michael Meacher, Labour's social security spokesman, said: "These unacceptably high error rates clearly expose how serious is the disarray in the government's social security system." The errors reflected in part "the plummeting morale" in social security offices. "Staff are undertrained, underpaid and overworked."

## Study on plight of homeless

By RAY CLANCY

THE children of homeless families living in dingy and overcrowded lodgings are condemned to a cycle of deprivation, according to a report to be published next week.

The welfare of at least 9,000 children in bed-and-breakfast hotels in London is at risk and more help is needed from the government, the report from the all-party London Boroughs Association says.

Many bed-and-breakfast hotels are overcrowded and have poor furnishings, inadequate washing facilities, and hazards such as unsafe windows, gas rings and electrical appliances. They are often unhygienic allowing diseases to spread easily.

Having to move frequently affects education and health, and homeless families are more vulnerable to crime, the report says. "Belongings disappear, including children's toys. Hotels are not the safest of places because families are vulnerable to intruders. In one

of the nastier cases a six-year-old girl was raped."

It says that children living in the hotels become withdrawn and disruptive. Competition for school places is such that some children simply fail to attend.

Councils have shown flexibility and initiative in tackling homelessness, but more money is needed with a

greater share going to the authorities with the most homeless families. The report says that the extra £250 million provided recently by the government is not enough.

A *Crying Shame - the Child Victims of Homelessness* (London Boroughs Association, 23 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB; £10).

Letters, page 13

## Few managers opt to retire at 65

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

EMPLOYERS who complain that the demographic time bomb of declining school leavers will strip them of skills to compete in world markets received a boost yesterday from a survey which shows that most company managers do not want to retire on their 65th birthday.

The survey, by Peat Marwick Management Consultants and the Institute of Personnel Management, says that instead of a sudden cut off from working life managers would like to move gradually towards retirement over the preceding ten years.

Peat Marwick also found, in its survey of 2,787 managers between the ages of 40 and 55, that only 14 per cent really wanted to retire between the ages of 61 and 65 compared to nearly 70 per cent who would like to retire between the ages of 51 and 60.

Four out of ten respondents wanted to work part time for their employer after retirement while 87 per cent wanted to continue some work-related activity.

Jacqui Lewis, the Peat Marwick human resources consultant, said: "A retirement decade could include a

balance of activities such as charity work, secondments, career placements with other organisations and coaching. Although there was a strong desire for career development among these mature managers, 45 per cent of respondents could not recall having had any personal development opportunities in the last five years.

"I believe this is an issue that companies should make the most of especially as the demographic dip takes effect through the 1990s."

The survey, released at the Institute of Personnel Management conference in Harrogate, also showed that 36 per cent of the managers felt sure their companies operated an age barrier for internal promotions. Women believed the barrier occurred at 40 while men thought it operated between 50 and 55.

The survey says many employers are failing to motivate older managers through flexible salary structures. An overwhelming 72 per cent said their organisation used pay ceilings for job grades and 27 per cent said they knew they had reached the top of their grade.

## Business struggling to bridge cultural divide

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Japanese understand each other only about 85 per cent of the time, Germans keep their working and family lives separate and the Dutch are almost American-like in their attitudes.

These are just some of the cultural differences with which managers now have to grapple in Europe and the Far East, the Institute of Personnel Management was told yesterday at its conference in Harrogate.

David Wrigglesworth, president of DCW Research Associates in California, said managers in Britain and elsewhere were recognising that their national perceptions, values and modes of conduct-

ing business in the international arena could have a negative impact.

There was a sharp difference, he said, between low-context cultures, such as the English-speaking countries, Scandinavia and Germany, which relied on words, while high-context cultures in the rest of the world communicated by not stating things.

He said that because people looked racially similar it did not mean that there would not be cultural problems. Body language was not the same in all cultures and some gestures might have different, even obscene connotations in different countries.

Business people, he advised,

should speak slowly to a non-native speaker of English, should avoid big words and should not mistake a courteous answer for the truth. "In Japan there are 16 ways to avoid saying no." People should not be trusted just because they spoke English and their competence did not depend on their ability to speak English.

Dr Wrigglesworth said that some languages were inherently vague. "Japanese is such a vague language that they only fully understand each other about 85 per cent of the time."

He described EuroMan, a figure with a blend of national EC member characteristics,

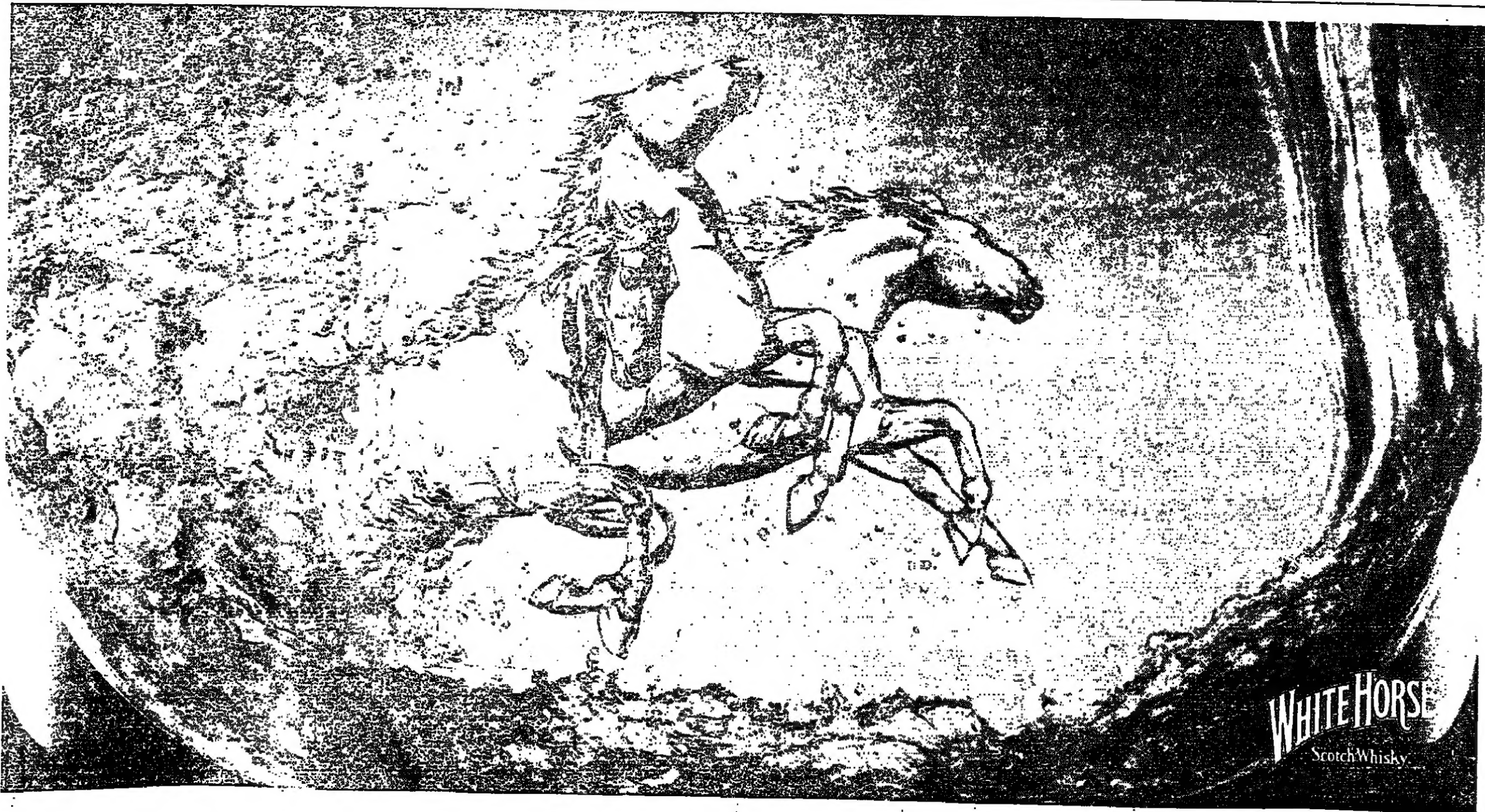
with a German head for managing the EC's inflation policy, an Irish mouth to blarney EC money for farmers, a Dutch finger for putting into a dyke to fight off Japanese imports, and an English stiff upper lip to fight off the EC's socialist tendencies.

Roy Davidson, of the American transport company United Parcel Service, talked of general cultural characteristics across Europe when recruiting people.

Germans, he said, considered their leisure time very important. "Although they may be known as a hard-working population with a high sense of duty they are not

willing to sacrifice their free time for the firm." Italians placed the importance of their family life over their job while Dutch managers did not consider work to be isolated from the rest of their lives. Instead they had an almost American concept of blending work and personal life.

A call was made to the conference for the introduction of preventative medicine techniques at places of work. There was a warning that managerial levels of stress would be even higher in the 90s than the 80s as a result of 1992 European links, change in eastern Europe and the emergence of Pacific rim nations.





# Ten years of boom that yielded London's hidden past

One hundred archaeologists are out of work after unearthing the capital's Roman links. John Young finds out what they had discovered

THE announcement yesterday that more than 100 archaeologists are to be made redundant by the Museum of London marks the end, at least for the time being, of an extraordinary decade of excavation in the capital.

The museum's board of governors said: "The acute downturn in property development in London has had severe effects on archaeology. This is because archaeological excavations are primarily funded by the site developer rather than central or local government."

"The result of this is that, when developers' funds cease due to economic recession, there is not the basic funding to continue archaeological advice and research. The museum is already severely constrained by government cash limits on its public programmes, curatorial and technical work."

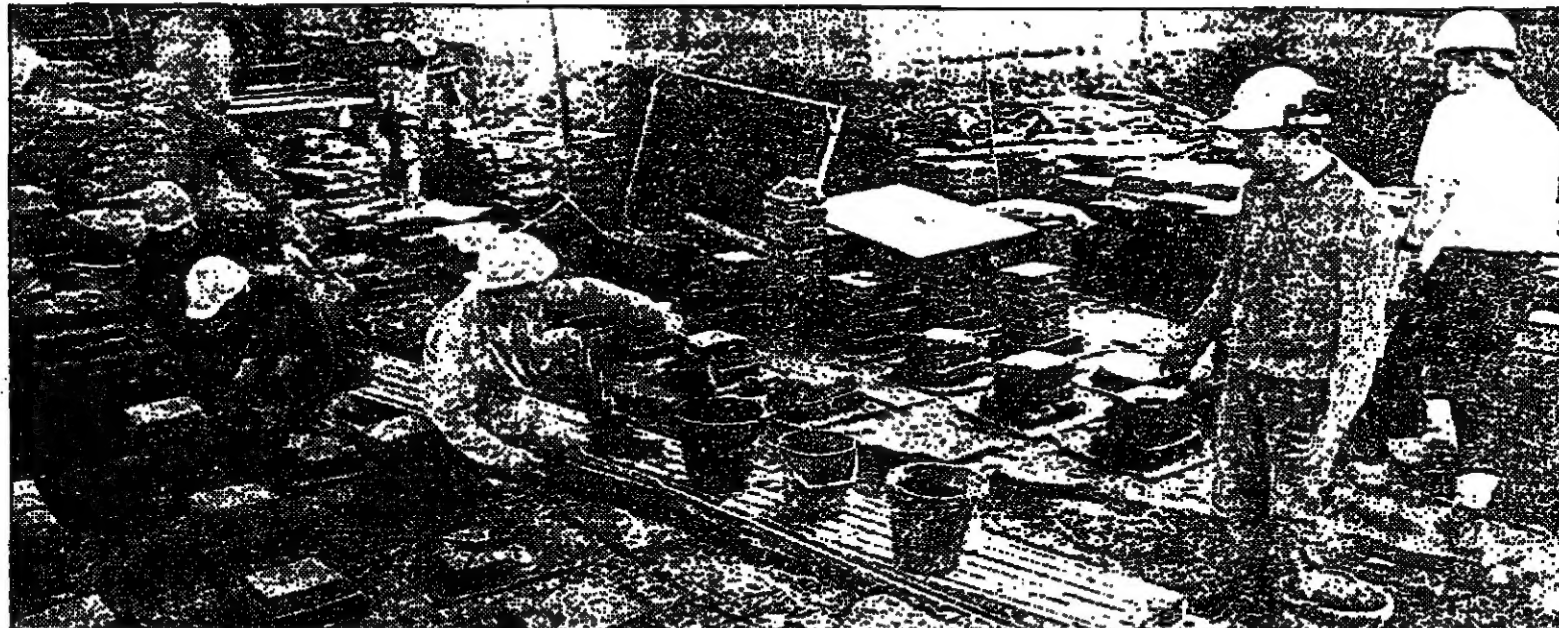
"Consequently it does not have the financial resources to continue to pay archaeologists who are not being paid for by developers or central funds."

The property boom that gathered pace in the early

1980s and during which developers have poured millions of pounds into the search for London's past has come almost to a halt. As a result Max Hebditch, the museum's director, estimates that from £8 million in 1989-90 and £6 million in the current year, his archaeological budget will be less than £2 million in the next financial year.

Inevitably archaeologists feel bitter at the lack of government support and at their dependence on the ups and downs of the commercial property market. However, it is certain that no government would have been able to match the funding that made possible the amount of excavation, discovery and recording in the good years.

For a long time the opportunities presented by the post-war rebuilding of London were scarcely recognised. Some excavations took place on bombed sites after the second world war, but during the 60s the amount spent was pathetically low; during the development of the now notori-



Hot spot: the Museum of London dig off Upper Thames Street that revealed the underfloor heating system for the Roman baths

ous Paternoster Square close to St Paul's, when the precursor of the environment department was responsible for archaeology, virtually no effort was made to uncover the site's hidden past.

It was the excavation of the Baynards Castle site at Blackfriars in 1972 that sparked a new wave of interest. Three years later Mr Hebditch, until then director of the Guildhall Museum in

the City, established the department of urban archaeology with support from the City of London and the environment department.

Over the following years he was able to forge agreements with developers whereby it became almost standard practice for time and money to be made available for rescue archaeology. Among the most important discoveries in the

City he rates the uncovering of a series of quaysides dating from Roman times to the medieval times at Billingsgate and the unearthing of the Roman basilica at Leadenhall.

In 1983 the museum became involved in excavation outside the City limits and took over the work of a number of independent units that had been under the aegis of the Greater London Coun-

cil. Important discoveries included those of a Roman timber warehouse on the site of the former Courage Brewery in Southwark and most recently the remains of the Shakespearean Rose and Globe theatres.

To describe 1990 as the end of an era would, Mr Hebditch says, be unreasonably pessimistic. Archaeological staff at the museum will be down next year to

about 120 or 130, compared with 450 in the department's heyday. Although he disclaims any ability to forecast the future of the property market, he is confident there will be a recovery.

A promised £5 million in the pipeline from projects for which no starting date has been set and which, for reasons of commercial confidence, he cannot name. There is also the prospect of

funding from new public sector projects such as extensions to the Underground rail network.

Archaeology in London has fared better than in other parts of the country because of the huge development values of sites in the capital. Until recently, moreover, economic development was heavily concentrated in London and the South-East.

The archaeological needs of cities such as York might be relatively just as great, he pointed out, but on the other hand the York Archaeological Trust had the benefit of revenue from the highly successful Jarvik Viking Museum. The Museum of London was free to the public and did not generate any commercial revenues.

Will there come a time when the developers have finished tearing down and rebuilding London and there are no more sites left to excavate?

Mr Hebditch smiled. "There was a time when I thought every site would be redeveloped by the year 2000 and that archaeology would become an indoor sport," he said. But already post-war buildings were being torn down and replaced.

"If and when the new proposals for the area around St Paul's are given the go-ahead, that will really be something."

## 'No contempt' in Lockerbie story

By KERRY GILL

THE editor of the *Sunday Telegraph* and a journalist were cleared of contempt of court yesterday by John Mowat, the Sheriff Principal, who is presiding over the judicial enquiry into the 270 deaths caused by the Lockerbie air disaster in December 1988.

Trevor Grove, the newspaper's editor, and Toby Helm were ordered to appear before the enquiry in Dumfries after the Sheriff Principal ruled that there appeared to be a *prima facie* contempt after

publication of an article in Sunday's edition of the *Sunday Telegraph*. Although Mr Grove and Mr Helm were cleared by the court of contempt, solicitors and counsel acting for the families of the British victims of the bombing said that they were considering bringing an action alleging defamation.

John Mitchell, QC, for Mr Grove and Mr Helm, said that the Lord Advocate had been somewhat baffled about the article because it made a complaint about aviation experts not being called to give evidence, when the chapter on Heathrow security had not even begun. "The article on the face of it appears to be premature," he said.

Mr Mitchell added that a relative of one of the deceased victims had expressed concern to Mr Helm that it appeared the enquiry was not going to consider Heathrow security in depth. Referring to alleged innuendo about legal costs, he said that no innuendo had been intended. "I can only say that, if these references were read in the way suggested, I have authority to unreservedly apologise for any distress caused."

● Airport workers at Heathrow could have had access to the baggage container that held the Samsonite suitcase in which the Lockerbie bomb was placed, the judicial enquiry into the disaster was told yesterday.

John Bedford, a luggage loader at Heathrow, said that it would have been possible for any worker to put cases into the container before it was left at a supervisor's office. Mr Bedford told the enquiry that he loaded cases into baggage containers from Pan Am feeder flights.

He was asked by Andrew Hardie, QC, for the Crown, whether he could remember a bronze Samsonite case supposed to have been placed on flight 103. Mr Bedford did.

He said that, as far as he knew, only he and a security guard had put cases into the baggage container. Mr Bedford had not heard of any bomb or terrorist warnings before the disaster.

The enquiry continues on Monday.

## Airlines face bleak future

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE spectre of 1973 will loom over 200 leaders of the world's airlines tomorrow as they gather in Geneva for their annual general meeting.

All the ingredients for a repeat of the crash that saw many forced out of business, small operators swallowed by their big competitors, and fast declining passenger numbers are again casting a cloud over the members of the International Air Transport Association.

Profits being made by the 200 members had already been cut to the bone even before Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and sent oil prices soaring. Now they will hear that in spite of carrying 726 million passengers and more than 12 million tons of air freight, the total profit the airlines managed to make last year was about £150 million—an average of well under £1 million for each airline.

This return means that any lingering hopes of a fall in air fares will be in vain. Before the Gulf confrontation high interest charges, spiralling labour costs, and losses caused by delays and increased security and navigation charges had hit the airlines badly. Prospects are worse with a 142 per cent increase in fuel prices, higher interest rates and changes in currency values.

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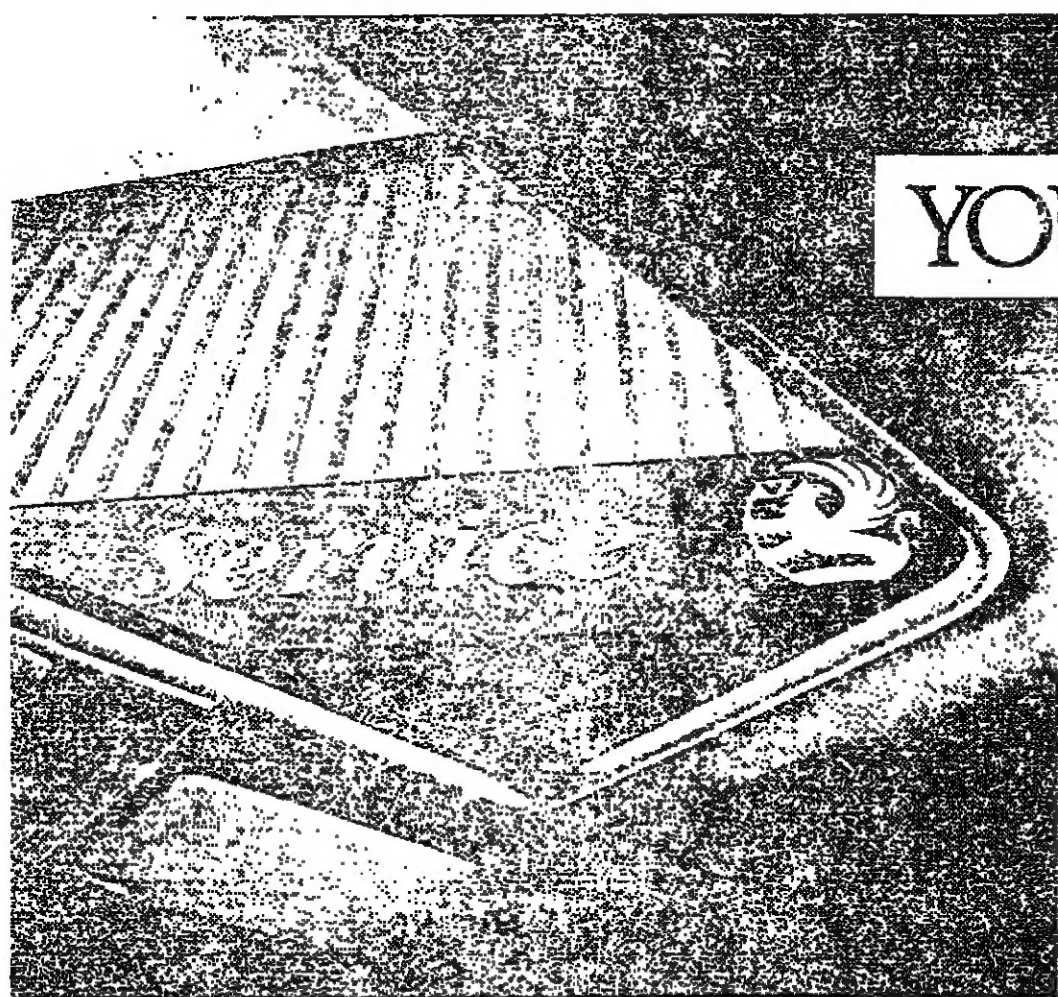
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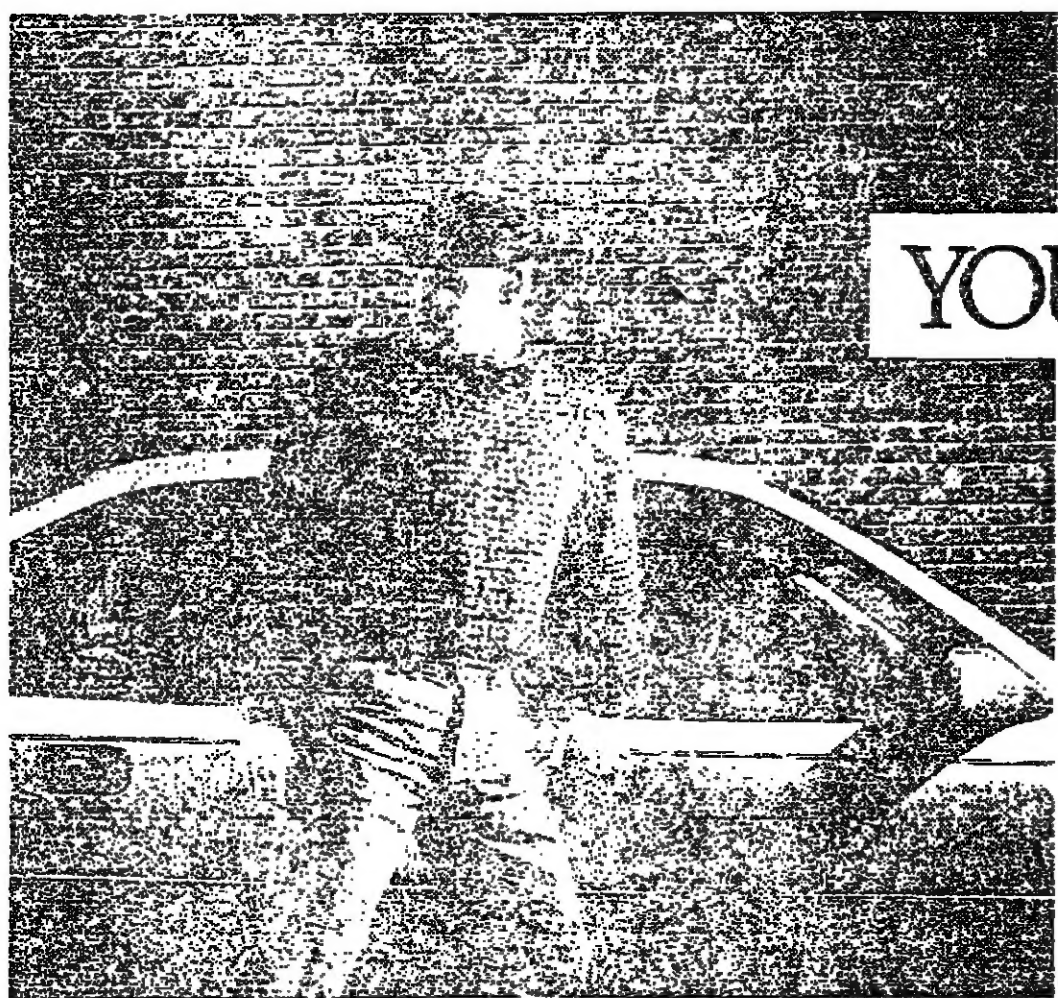
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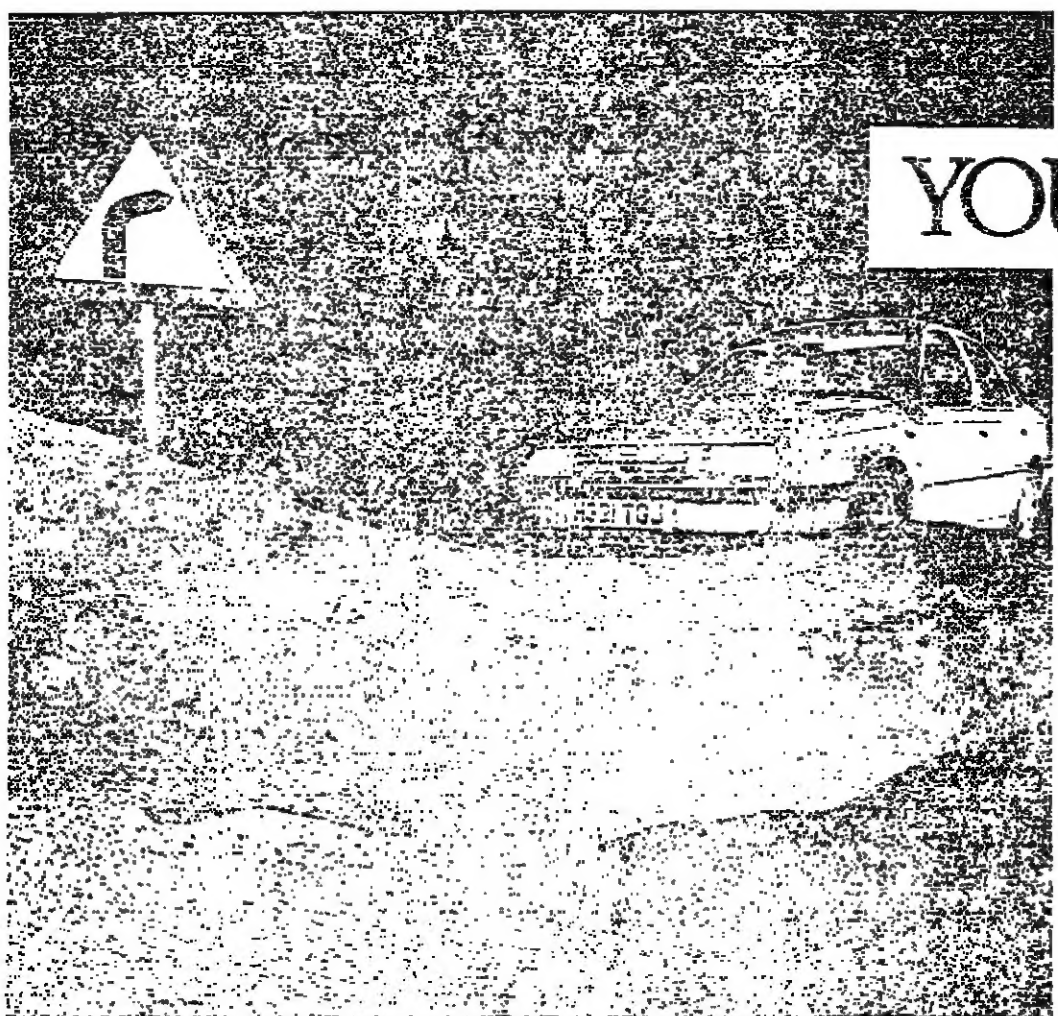
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# British tanks moving into position in Saudi desert

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AS BRITISH heavy tanks began moving to training positions in the Saudi Arabian desert yesterday, Iraq said that Britain and the United States were blocking an Arab solution to the Gulf emergency.

But William Waldegrave, minister of state at the Foreign Office, rejected suggestions that the two countries were moving towards a war and said they still wanted a peaceful solution.

Some reports implied that war must be close because the government had made arrangements for hospitals to treat injured servicemen. But Mr Waldegrave said that these were contingency precautions.

The first of 120 British Challenger tanks started heading north from Dhahran where they were unloaded last weekend after being transported by sea. After a training period they are to take up forward positions with the 7th Armoured Brigade.

One of the brigade's two regiments is the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, best known for the "charge of the Light Brigade". This week it celebrated the 136th anniversary of the charge by 600 horsemen against Russian

cavalry during the Crimean War. "I hope we are just as gallant, but better directed," Colonel Arthur Denaro, the commander, said yesterday.

The Challenger, one of the world's heaviest tanks, weighing 62 tonnes and armed with a 120mm gun, was designed as a desert tank to meet an order from the late Shah of Iran, but there have been questions about its reliability and the accuracy of its gun. The tanks spent several days in workshops at Dhahran being fitted with sand filters and other modifications.

The British forces are about 60 miles north of Dhahran close to US marines. The United States has about 1,000 tanks in Saudi Arabia and several hundred more are on the way from reserves in Europe. Iraq has about 3,500 tanks dug into defensive positions in Kuwait.

In the event of conflict, Washington's first priority would be to gain air superiority. Colonel Denaro said he was confident that US forces would achieve this, giving the multinational forces an intelligence advantage. "Their intelligence will tell us all about the enemy without them getting to know much about us," he said.

American spy satellites and Avacis aircraft with sophisticated radar surveillance devices keep watch on Iraqi forces estimated at 430,000 in Kuwait and southern Iraq.

Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, said that the quick American and British reactions to conciliatory remarks attributed to Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi defence minister, showed that they opposed an Arab solution. The Iraqi News Agency quoted him as saying: "The statements confirm that the Washington and London governments... deliberately and immediately suppress any attempt to open a dialogue among Arab states to settle their regional questions in an Arab context."

He said they wanted complete political control and described the military build-up as practically amounting to the occupation of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf.

Prince Sultan was reported to have told Arab journalists last Sunday that Saudi Arabia "sees no harm in any Arab country giving its Arab sisterland a site or a position on the sea". His remark strengthened speculation that a compromise giving Iraq the strategic islands of Bubiyan and Warbah was being considered.

But Riyadh said he had been misinterpreted. Washington and London sought and received assurances that Saudi Arabia's policy remained unchanged. Prince Sultan and King Fahd emphasised that they continued to demand Iraq's unconditional withdrawal.

Margaret Thatcher is to hold talks with President Mitterrand of France today before the European Community summit in Rome, which she hopes will produce a strong statement showing solidarity with the Twelve against Iraq.

A French television station reported that President Saddam had said in a letter to M. Mitterrand that he was ready to discuss Middle East problems, including Kuwait.

The Iraqi president said he hoped Francois Mitterrand and Mikhail Gorbachev will spare no effort to find a solution to all the problems of the region, in particular the Palestinian problem, the private station La Cinq said.

Battle date line, page 12



Gulf concern: Professor Angus McGrouther believes the facilities of military hospitals could be exhausted within days in the event of conflict

## Britain 'may not cope' with casualties

By THOMSON PRENTICE AND JILL SHERMAN

BRITISH hospitals might be unable to cope with large numbers of seriously injured casualties from a conflict in the Gulf, a leading plastic surgeon said yesterday.

A system would have to be imposed to decide which of the wounded could be treated and which could not, said Angus McGrouther, professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery at University College Hospital, London.

He said the capacity of military hospitals in Britain to handle casualties who were badly burned or injured by chemical weapons could be exhausted within a few days. Health service hospitals would then take over, but they too would be quickly overstretched, he said.

Professor McGrouther is an

international authority in his field. During the Iran-Iraq war he treated soldiers from both sides referred to him with severe burns and bomb blast injuries. His work is funded by the Phoenix Appeal charity.

The Ministry of Defence has confirmed that contingency plans to handle wounded are being discussed with health authorities, mainly in the south of England. The ministry is building a network of medical facilities, including field hospitals in Saudi Arabia, hospital ships off the Saudi coast, and a military unit in Akrotiri in Cyprus.

Recent estimates in the United States have put the number of potential allied casualties in the Gulf as high as 30,000 dead or wounded.

Britain has sent a military force of 15,000 personnel.

A 400-bed field hospital has been set up at Jubayl in Saudi Arabia, with a medical staff of 500, including 20 surgeons and anaesthetists. An operating theatre is being installed in The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Argus, which leaves Britain next week to become a floating hospital off the Saudi coast to which casualties could be transferred by helicopter.

Professor McGrouther said it was almost certain that military and civilian hospitals in Britain would become involved. "If there is a conflict, injuries from burns and chemical weapons are likely to be a big problem."

"A plane load of casualties would soak up the capacity of military hospitals within a

matter of hours. This was one of the lessons of the Falklands war. At the very most, the health service would be able to treat only about 150 such casualties at one time. There are no more than 30 plastic surgery or burns units in the country, and they could handle only five patients each because of the intensive treatment required.

"We would get into a dilemma quickly where a system would be necessary to decide who to treat and who not to treat."

Several regional health authorities, including Wessex and East Anglian, have been approached by the ministry to assess whether their hospitals would be able to take in casualties. The ministry said yesterday that discussions

were also taking place on whether NHS doctors would be able to help military hospitals depleted of staff.

The Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot, Hants has effectively closed as most of its staff are being sent to Saudi Arabia to set up a 400-bed field hospital. Wessex region, which contains two military hospitals, at Gosport, Hampshire and Swindon, Wiltshire, has 15 big acute hospitals, several of which may have to take casualties.

"Disaster plans are always in a state of readiness," a spokesman for the region said. "Everyone must hope that there is no conflict in the Gulf, but if NHS hospitals were to be called on, I am sure they would rise to the occasion and provide superlative care."

## Israelis deny a move to partition

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

DESPITE official denials, the conviction is growing in Israel that, by sealing off the West Bank and Gaza to prevent spiralling violence, Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing government is reintroducing the "green line" and helping to create de facto partition between pre-1967 Israel and the occupied territories.

"There has been a change because of the Temple Mount killings and the subsequent violence," one diplomat said. "There is minimal contact now between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews. Palestinians are clearly not going to be given self-government by Shamir, but they could end up living in a separate Israeli-controlled entity if this trend continues."

Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said there was no renewal of the green line. "We decided to prevent the entry of residents of the territories into Israel for a few days," Mr Arens said. This would enable Israel to "review means of supervising Arab labourers entering Israel" while simultaneously enabling Palestinians to "consider the situation and conclude that continuing violent acts will only worsen the tragedy of the Palestinian population."

Military sources said the closure of the occupied territories could be rescinded by the middle of the coming week if calm was restored. Thousands of troops have been drafted in to reinforce the green line. But in West Bank towns the mood was defiant. "We can manage without the Jews," one young Arab said. "If they gave us our own state, we could build a Palestinian economy."

Other Palestinians said that Arabs and Jews would continue to need each other, and that their economic fates were linked. "We have the labour, the Israelis have the money," one Arab building worker said. In Jerusalem, Faisal Hussein, the leading Palestinian activist, said there could be no return to the "man and horse relationship" between Israelis and Palestinians. There is none the less concern among Palestinians that Israeli employers will replace the 120,000 Palestinians who normally commute to work in Israel with Soviet Jewish immigrants, and that Palestinian families will suffer greatly from the loss of income.

Israelis have become markedly more suspicious of Arabs in Jerusalem because of this week's spate of revenge stabbings. The interior ministry said there had been "a sharp increase" in applications from Israeli citizens for gun licences for "self defence". Certainly, any Arab working in an Israeli shop or garage is regarded with suspicion at the moment. "I don't turn my back any more" one garage owner said. "I know my Arab mechanics very well, we visit each other's homes. But this suspicion is poisonous."

## Nakasone pleads for hostages

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

YASUHIRO Nakasone, the former Japanese prime minister, is joining the band of elder statesmen making hostage mercy missions to Iraq. He plans to leave for Baghdad in early November to talk to President Saddam Hussein and request the release of all hostages being held in Iraq and Kuwait.

"I would like to go as soon as possible to see President Saddam Hussein and talk about the possibility of resolving the situation peacefully and of arranging for all the hostages of the world, not just the Japanese, to return to their home countries with me," Mr Nakasone said yesterday, clearly flattered that he remained probably Japan's best known politician abroad.

It is not the first time that such an idea has been mooted. The 310 Japanese in Iraq and Kuwait sent a plea in September to the present Japanese prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, to send Mr Nakasone as a special envoy to negotiate their release.

Although he will not be going as a government envoy, Mr Nakasone's decision to accept the mission now is likely to have been influenced by Edward Heath's success in winning freedom for some British captives earlier this week.

The invitation to Mr Nakasone to visit Baghdad was made by the Iraqi government and funnelled through Bunsei Sato, a former Japanese politician currently visiting Baghdad, who is close to Mr Nakasone. Mr Nakasone will travel to Iraq as an adviser to a delegation from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic party (LDP).

Mr Kaifu has not yet decided whether he will give Mr Nakasone a message to carry to the Iraqi leader, but he said yesterday that he welcomed the trip. "The government has already opened the road to political dialogue with Iraq," Mr Kaifu told reporters. "I think the invitation is a good thing."

## Maids held slave by Arab families

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

A CRUEL but unending legacy of the Gulf conflict is the plight of hundreds of penniless Asian housemaids transplanted with their employers by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and now forcibly kept in service in Egyptian households.

"They are the 20th-century equivalent of slaves, unable to escape and often kept working inhuman hours without pay," one Asian diplomat said. "So far, the problems caused elsewhere by the crisis have been so large that few people have had time to worry about them."

According to the Sri Lankan embassy in Cairo, most of the victims are Sri Lankan women, about 200 of whom are currently being held against their will, forbidden to leave and forced to work without pay for families who claim to have lost their money in Kuwait. The scandal was highlighted for the first time this week by Ronnie Weerakoon, the Sri Lankan ambassador, when one woman died in hospital after becoming so desperate that she jumped from a third-storey window, trying either to escape or to kill herself.

The Sri Lankans and hundreds of other Asian women worked as maids or nannies with Kuwaiti or Egyptian families in Kuwait and came with their employers to spend the summer in Cairo, where they were trapped when Iraqi tanks rolled across the Kuwait border on August 2.

About 1,500 Asian women have been left at the gates of their embassies, and Kuwaiti employers and European countries have been helping to pay for flights home, but many formerly rich Egyptian expatriate families are blamed for not letting employees leave.

"It appears there are about 200 being held by Egyptian employers, who are not allowing them to come to the embassy," said Mr Weerakoon, who added that Colombo was now planning to call in the Egyptian police to secure the women's freedom.

The ambassador, whose embassy sports a poster telling visitors "God will bless you if you help these girls who have served you well", said that he knew about the trapped women from others who had come to the embassy and some who had secretly telephoned him from their employers' homes to complain of being locked in.

Mr Weerakoon said that the rush to his embassy began around August 20 as the realisation sank in with Egyptian employers that they had little hope in the near future of resuming their former carefree and well-paid lives in Kuwait.

At one time, up to 40 women a day were being brought to the embassy in the Cairo suburb of Zamalek, but that number has now dropped to around two or three daily. Many of those arriving complain they had not been paid for months after their employers claimed to have lost all their money in Kuwait.

Each of the 15 republics contains at least one significant ethnic minority. In some, it comprises Russian immigrants who are concentrated in urban areas. In others, however, including the

USSR Federation, there are several non-Russian minorities indigenous to the region. Often, though not in the case of the Gagauz in Moldova, the area inhabited by the minority is designated an "autonomous" republic, region or district, giving it a special (but not that special) status. Nagorno-Karabakh in the trans-Caucasus, the mountainous area populated mainly by Armenians, but administered by the republic of Azerbaijan which surrounds it, is the most notorious of these "autonomies", as they are called in Russian.

More typical of the overall problem facing the Soviet Union are the smaller ethnic minorities of the Russian Federation which have no other homeland. They include the Yakuts of eastern Siberia, the Kalmyks near the Caspian Sea, and the Tatars of the Volga region. All these groups live in designated "autonomies".

## Baker to visit Saudis as US war rhetoric grows

From PETER STOTHARD IN WASHINGTON AND NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

AMID heightened martial rhetoric against Iraq from the American administration, James Baker, the secretary of state, is to visit Saudi Arabia next week. State Department sources said yesterday. The aim of the trip, which his office would not officially confirm, was said to be first to focus international attention back to Kuwait and away from the Palestinian question and second to assess the strength of the alliance if military action against Iraq is required.

Planning for the trip began several days ago at the same time as the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, Colin Powell, called for reinforcements of up to 100,000 troops so that the US and its allies should be able to mount an offensive to retake Kuwait. It coincides with tough speeches from the defence secretary Richard Cheney and William Webster, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, emphasising the risks of Iraq "lashing out" against Saudi Arabia or Israel and the dangers to future Middle East peace if Saddam Hussein is not removed from power.

Government sources said the twin-track policy of UN-backed sanctions and military build-up remained unchanged. They discounted reports that Mr Baker would ask King Fahd for permission to launch a first strike against Iraqi forces in Kuwait. Officials made clear that the Saudis were encouraging the US into war rather than vice versa. Mr Baker would be able to assess

the diplomatic state of the alliance and to give a message to Iraq and the American people that the military option remained strong.

Meanwhile, senior Iraqi sources said Washington's plan to send 100,000 reinforcements to Saudi Arabia will not affect Iraq's ability to defend Kuwait.

"By sending more troops it means that the Americans are preparing for war," one Iraqi official said. "It means that the American threat is still alive." Iraq expects them to attack at any moment and is prepared to repulse them. There are already about 200,000 American combat troops based in northeastern

Saudi Arabia, outnumbered by an Iraqi force of about 400,000 in or near Kuwait.

In Baghdad, the father of a British student injured in a car crash on his way to being freed from Kuwait, will not be allowed to return to Britain. Iraqi officials said yesterday. Bruce Duncan, who yesterday was at his son Rory's bedside at a Baghdad hospital, came out of hiding in Kuwait when he learned of the accident.

His other son, Alex, aged 21, an undergraduate at Balliol College, Oxford, was killed in the crash on Tuesday morning as he was being driven by Iraqi officials to join Edward Heath and 33 Britons who were allowed to go home.

## Moldavia declares emergency to avert war

From MARY DEIEVSKY IN MOSCOW

A SPECIAL session of parliament in Soviet Moldova yesterday declared a state of emergency in three southern districts of the republic, in what it said was an attempt to prevent civil war.

The emergency, to last for two months in the first instance, provides for the dissolution of all local councils and direct rule by provisional committees from the republic's capital, Kishinev. All demonstrations and assemblies are banned, so is the use of printing and photocopying facilities. Entry and exit to the region are restricted.

The three southern districts, which are inhabited mainly by ethnic Turks, unilaterally declared themselves the independent Gagauz Republic in August and on Thursday started elections to its parliament. The same day, armed volunteers committed to stopping the elections set off from Kishinev in 85 buses for the

journey to the Gagauz regional centre, Komrat. According to the semi-official news agency, Interfax, quoting the Moldavian interior ministry, upwards of 20,000 volunteers had gathered on the border with the Gagauz region.

The recall of the volunteers was being discussed yesterday by the Moldavian parliament. Responsibility for enforcing the state of emergency is to rest with a regiment of interior ministry troops at present stationed in Kishinev, but they are fewer in number than the volunteers.

It was also reported that 10 armoured personnel carriers had been dispatched to the town of Chemishlia, near Komrat, where the volunteer detachments were gathering, but so far the situation was described as calm.

The Speaker of the Moldavian parliament, Aleksandru Moșanu, made a television broadcast on Thursday night, appealing for "maximum re-

straint, calm and tolerance" to prevent clashes between volunteers and the Gagauz people. "There are militants on both sides," he was quoted as saying, "ready to cast us into the abyss of violence."

The conflict between the Moldavian leadership and the



Gorbachev: confronted by many ethnic conflicts

Gagauz region is one of the many ancient ethnic conflicts

which the freer atmosphere in the Soviet Union has brought to the surface.

The republic of Moldova is populated mainly with ethnic Romanians, who have campaigned to leave the Soviet Union and to join neighbouring Romania. The resurgence of Romanian nationalism was matched by awakening ethnic consciousness among the 150,000-strong Turkish population, whose leaders expressed fears for their future if Romanian dominance grew.

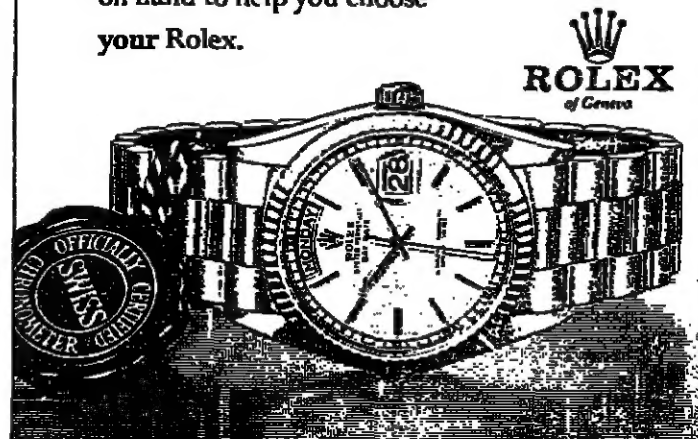
The dispute with the ethnic Turkish minority is one of at least two dozen such conflicts already occurring or which could erupt in coming months somewhere in the Soviet Union.

Each of the 15 republics contains at least one significant ethnic minority. In some, it comprises Russian immigrants who are concentrated in urban areas. In others, however, including the

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# No News is bad news for city on the brink of collapse

THE loudspeakers in Grand Central station played that old favourite *Autumn in New York* yesterday as commuters searched for the *Daily News*, the city's biggest-selling paper. For the first time since it was founded after the first world war, there were none. Across 42nd Street, in a northerly gale, pickets were circling the art deco building that is headquarters to the *News*.

After months of bitter brinkmanship, the unions had called an all-out "strike to the death" in the early hours and opened a fight to prevent the Chicago owners from putting out a version with non-union staff. They had been recruited and trained for months, ready for deployment at new production facilities in New Jersey and Brooklyn.

New Yorkers have been apprised of the struggle for months, if only because the unions have placed big advertising posters on

A sense of deep despair is challenging the long-held view that, come what may, New York is and always will be the world's greatest city, writes Charles Bremner

city buses proclaiming: "The *Daily News* is bad for its workers". Strikers yesterday burned delivery lorries in Brooklyn in an attempt to stop the "scab" workers. The Tribune group of Chicago is determined to break what it considers restrictive union practices and some officials predicted the death of the paper.

For ordinary New Yorkers the closure of the *News*, which until recently held the biggest weekday circulation of any US paper, was more bad news in a baleful month that has seen the city reach a sense of gloom deeper than any, at least, since the near fiscal collapse of the mid-1970s.

Ironically, that unstable period is best remembered for one celebrated 1975 headline in the *Daily News*: "Ford to City: Drop Dead". It reported President Ford's refusal to help rescue the city from bankruptcy.

The new recession started hitting a year ago and crime and racial tension have been exploding for longer, but over the past couple of weeks several events have converged to make even the most blasé citizens reconsider the conventional view that, whatever happens, New York will always remain the world's greatest city.

Property values have taken a further dive. Much of the non-

wealthy middle-class is fleeing up to the idea that their flats, if bought in the late 1980s, may never again be worth more than a fraction of the mortgage. Analysts have begun predicting trouble for some New York-based banks, the largest in the US, because of their lending in the property boom. Radio stations have started airing commercials for pawn shops, now called "loan centres".

The most ominous blow of all was the resignation last week of Felix Rohatyn, the banker who led the Municipal Assistance Corporation, the agency which rescued the city from the 1970s troubles and helped it prosper in the 1980s. Mr Rohatyn said he wanted no part of the disaster which was now looming. The city, he said, "is facing a social, political and economic crisis far more serious than the fiscal crisis of the 1970s".

At stake is its whole future as

the financial and cultural heart of the United States. Unlike the 1970s, there was no longer any public consensus on the need for shared sacrifice, he said, in words that rang like thunder on Wall Street. "Today New York has become a city full of anger and violence in which ethnic groups are turned against other ethnic groups, races against other races, classes against other classes."

The city has witnessed fresh illustrations of the new racial breakdown over the past few days. In Brooklyn on Thursday night, thousands of Hispanics besieged a police station in protest against what they said was lenient police treatment of Jews in the district. In the subway, young black passengers attacked a group of white commuters who had gone to the aid of a woman as she was being mugged by a black youth. They punched Lisa Polk, the victim, and allowed the

mugger to escape. They explained that the good Samaritans were demonstrating racism.

The object of Mr Rohatyn's frustration is Mayor David Dinkins and the administration he inaugurated only last January. Elected on a promise to heal the racial divide, Mr Dinkins has appeared confused and ineffectual in the face of the conflict.

"Do Nothing Dave", as the newspapers have dubbed him, astonished the city after he gave a hefty pay rise to teachers, and the next day announced the likely dismissal of 15,000 city workers. Yesterday, his team suffered the humiliation of asking the teachers' union leaders to come back to the table and re-negotiate. Mr Dinkins is now engaged in pay negotiations with unions for a majority of the city's 300,000 employees.

Mr Rohatyn and many experts are predicting disaster if he fails

to win big concessions in order to cover a \$1 billion (£500 million) budget deficit, but few expected him to prevail. "The big question these past few weeks has been whether David Dinkins knows what he is doing," said *New York* magazine. "The consensus is that he doesn't."

Jimmy Breslin, the veteran commentator, said the mayor "does absolutely nothing but change his clothes". The troubles of self-important, recently glittering New York are now the source of much *Schadenfreude* in "mainland America". Comedians are deriving mileage from jokes such as Jay Leno's crack that the Statue of Liberty is being remodelled so the lady has both hands up. But some things do not change. The big news yesterday in the *New York Post* was Donald Trump's announcement that he did not plan to marry Maria Maples.

## British vision of EC future under scrutiny in Rome talks

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

MARGARET Thatcher sits down in Rome with fellow European leaders today to discuss the political union of the European Community: a concept anathema to Downing Street, and one that only a year ago was nowhere on the horizon.

But the two hours of talks are not about the immediate construction of a United States of Europe: even federalists such as Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, regard that as a long way off. Political union is really shorthand for three related issues: extending community competence to foreign policy and defence, streamlining decision-making and making the EC more accountable to voters.

All have been made more urgent by the upheavals in Eastern Europe, the gathering pace of economic integration and the confrontation in the Gulf. And all were brought together at the Dublin summit in April, when EC leaders realised that the proposed inter-governmental conference on economic and monetary union

could not also handle such disparate topics. And so they set up a second, parallel, conference and appointed experts to look at what it should discuss and make preliminary recommendations. The commission did the same.

Their reports are now on the table, and community leaders will give their first reactions to them today. Some countries, such as France and Italy, have also floated proposals informally in briefings for journalists over the past month, with the clear aim of influencing the debate.

Britain, which did not want this debate in the first place, has not put forward any grand scheme, partly because the government does not really know what changes, if any, it wants in the Treaty of Rome, and partly because it does not want to preempt the discussions at the inter-governmental conference. Nevertheless, Britain is determined to have its views heard, and has therefore jotted down on a two-page summary the issues it believes most important.

The first is that the Western European Union should remain the principal co-ordinator of European defence, and that nothing should be done to undermine Nato. Similarly in foreign policy, Britain wants the present quasi-independent political co-operation procedures to continue with a strengthened secretariat, though with increasing links to the commission. To improve community efficiency, Britain proposes giving the European Court power to levy fines on countries failing to implement directives that have been adopted. And, to increase democratic accountability, it is ready to let the European parliament confirm appointments of the president, as well as having a greater role in auditing EC finances.

So far, by far the most comprehensive and cogent proposals have come from the commission. Published this week, the well-timed report combines caution and vision. It argues that any changes must take account of public opinion in the member countries and their different conceptions of pooled sovereignty. It renounces any sole commission right to make foreign policy, says defence should best stay with the WEU for a while, and slaps down some of the more overreaching demands of the European parliament for co-decision.

The report holds up a vision of a more efficient and accountable community that goes much further than Britain's suggestions.

It is the sweep of the vision that will both inspire the federalists and repel the British government, whose minimalist approach eschews all such blueprints. Mrs Thatcher will nevertheless be pressed today to spell out what Britain would propose instead. Rough notes on how to tidy up this or that bit of the Brussels bureaucracy are not enough.

## Top party man held in scandal

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN BERLIN

BERLIN police yesterday arrested Wolfgang Pohl, the vice-president of the beleaguered German communist party, and an associate of his, Wolfgang Langitschke, amid a growing scandal involving party funds.

Gregor Gysi, the leader of the Party for Democratic Socialism, the successor to the East German communist party, announced at a press conference yesterday that he was prepared to resign.

A police investigation is under way as a result of the recent discovery that party officials suspiciously transferred DM107 million (£36.2 million) in party funds to several bank accounts in Oslo and Utrecht belonging to a Soviet firm. Subsequently several party members tried to withdraw the money.

Over 100 heavily armed policemen have raided the party's headquarters and searched the offices of Herr Gysi and Hans Modrow, the former prime minister, in an unsuccessful attempt to uncover evidence directly linking them to the scandal.

Earlier, Herr Pohl announced at a press conference called by the party that he would resign his post as vice-president. Herr Pohl, responsible for overseeing party funds, told reporters that he was trying to save German communists from financial ruin by initiating the transfer of funds.

Herr Gysi, who met members of the Soviet Communist party's central committee in Moscow on Thursday in an attempt to learn more about the Soviet firm allegedly involved, said he had contacted the Berlin state attorney's office to reveal what he knew about the transactions.

A party official from Halle, suspected of having masterminded the transfers, is believed to be in hiding in the Soviet Union, according to a party spokesman.

Herr Gysi told reporters that he was offering his resignation because "false information" was given to the media about the party's position in the affair. But he insisted that he himself was free of any personal guilt or involvement in the affair.

The party leadership said it would turn down his offer of resignation at a meeting today in Berlin, but Herr Gysi said he would seek a vote of confidence.

The affair has all but destroyed the party's credibility and its claim to have given up the ways of the discredited old ruling party of East Germany. It could also cost the party votes in the December general elections.



Taking a tumble: President Bush, under the eye of Vic Gold, a consultant, romps with his dogs before going on an afternoon jog

## Poll rival has Helms running scared

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

FOR the first time in his Senate career, the fire-and-brimstone conservative Jesse Helms is on the defensive in a campaign for reelection in North Carolina.

His rival, Harvey Gantt, a soft-spoken black liberal, has moved into the lead by 49 per cent to 41 per cent according to a local opinion poll taken during the federal budget emergency that has detained the Republican senator in Washington. No rival has ever come so close to defeating Mr Helms on paper during his three successful campaigns for a seat on Capitol Hill.

Senator Helms portrays Mr Gantt as an ultra-liberal at odds with the conservatism of the Bible belt. For his part, Mr Gantt, an architect who was the first black to

attend a university in neighbouring South Carolina in the 1960s, has painted Mr Helms as out of touch with the issues of day in a state that has experienced considerable immigration and urban expansion over the past few years.

His television advertisements have attacked Mr Helms's record on education and the environment, drawing on increasing concern among North Carolinians depressed their state is rated bottom on child literacy and that their forests are being spoiled.

Most importantly, however, the race is a battle between the new South and the old South. Even Mr Gantt's staff admit the race may not be as close as polls indicate since black candidates in recent

political races around the country have suffered from the so-called halo factor, or whites unwilling to admit their prejudice against voting for a black.

"They might not agree with everything Jesse Helms will do and they might tell you that his days are numbered," said Joan Neal, a church worker in a small town outside Charlotte. "But they will still go to the polls for him because they're just not quite ready for this kind of liberal." Mr Gantt opposes the death penalty and favours increasing taxes and cutting spending to bring down the federal budget deficit.

Mr Helms's strong suit is his ability to distance himself from the day-to-day workings of Congress by vowing he has "never cast

a political vote in his life". Instead, he is suffering more from a growing feeling that 18 years is quite long enough for one man to stay in power. "He's 68. He's an old man," says Gloria Taylor, who runs a grocery in a mainly black neighbourhood of Charlotte.

Mr Gantt faces the tough task of appealing to Mr Helms's strongest constituency, the blue-collar textile mill employees and tobacco pickers in the eastern part of the state. He has won support among black church groups and school students with his easy-going manner. He drew whoops of approval at a school this week by saying he trusted North Carolina women to choose for themselves whether to have an abortion.

The Helms campaign is counting on the state's rural vote to win, as well as white support in a region that is 20 per cent black. The race is sure to be perilously close.

## Bold Afrikaans newspaper fined

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE editor and publishers of South Africa's only liberal Afrikaans language newspaper were fined a total of 7,000 rands (£1,450) yesterday over an article it printed about the country's intelligence service.

For Max Du Preez, aged 37, editor of the Johannesburg-based weekly *Vry Weekblad* (Independent Weekly), the sentence of a fine of 2,000 rands or four months' imprisonment came as a relief. His newspaper's publishers were fined 5,000 rands.

He had expected to be imprisoned for up to five years. He was convicted of receiving and pub-

lishing a document sensitive to state security. Ironically, the article which claimed there were links between the national intelligence service and the now defunct Institute for Soviet Studies at Stellenbosch university, regarded as the main think-tank of Afrikaner ideology, was published on February 2, the same day that President de Klerk unbanned the African National Congress (ANC) and abolished media restrictions.

*Vry Weekblad*, launched just over a year ago, has paid a heavy price for campaigning against apartheid. After it exposed the activities of clandestine security

force units its offices were attacked with petrol bombs.

Meanwhile, an arrest warrant has been issued by a Johannesburg magistrate against Winnie Mandela, wife of Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the ANC. She failed to turn up in court on Thursday on charges relating to non-payment of unemployment insurance for workers in a fish and chips shop in which she has a financial interest.

She is due to face trial next February on kidnap and assault charges arising from the murder of Stompie Mokhele, aged 14, by her former bodyguards.

Saturday Review, page 10



Helms: behind in election ratings for the first time

## Hungary jammed by petrol protest

BUDAPEST — Hungary was thrown into confusion yesterday and faced the prospect of economic paralysis as thousands of taxi and lorry drivers blocked roads, public transport and border crossings in protest at the government's decision to double petrol prices (Ernest Beck writes).

Buda and other cities were brought to a standstill. In the capital taxis blocked all bridges across the Danube as well as the main road to the airport and the international motorway link with Vienna.

Only a few cars were being allowed through at all crossings except on the frontier with the Soviet Union.

## Bomber guilty

Sydney — Timothy Anderson, aged 38, a former member of the Ananda Marga Indian sect, has been found guilty of masterminding a bomb attack at a Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Sydney 12 years ago which killed three people. The bomb was an attempt to assassinate the Indian prime minister, Moraji Desai, to force the Indian government to free the leader of the Ananda Marga sect from jail. (Reuter)

## Chief charged

Panama City — Colonel Eduardo Herrera, the former chief of police, has been charged with plotting to overthrow the government of President Guillermo Endara. Colonel Herrera led the reorganization of Panama's military after the US invasion that overthrew the former strongman, Manuel Noriega. But President Endara retired him in August, and the government now says the colonel is linked to a group that opposes US intervention in Panama. (AP)

## Pact broken

Nairobi — Fierce fighting erupted between the Rwandan army and rebels in the northeast of Rwanda, less than 36 hours after a ceasefire went into effect. The Rwandan army violated the ceasefire and launched a big offensive against rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front in an attempt to push them further north. The ceasefire had been worked out by the Belgian prime minister, Wilfried Martens. (AFP)

## Taiwan pays

Taipei — Taiwan has paid "sympathy money" to the widow of the Chinese-American writer Henry Liu, who was shot dead in his California home by paid Taiwanese agents in 1984. The vice foreign minister, Chen Chien-jen, said Taipei had agreed, but declined to confirm that the amount paid was \$1.5 million. (Reuter)

## Train rams bus

Cairo — Twelve people were killed and 15 seriously injured when a train-travelling at full speed collided with a bus at a railway crossing near the old Cairo airport. Most of the victims were relatives of Egyptian army officers, who were travelling home from Cairo. (AFP)

## Horrors of war give Cambodian luxury a harsh edge

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

THE pretty cocktail waitresses at the luxurious Hotel Cambodiana at Karl Marx Quay on the Mekong river here are charming and beguilingly innocent, and they like to talk to guests.

But they do not chat about pop music, fashions, boyfriends and dates, as their counterparts would be expected to do in most parts of the world. Instead, they earnestly steer the conversation towards issues of life and death, war, peace, bereavement, fear, horror and anxiety about the future. Like children who grew up in the Warsaw ghetto or Biafra, they have seen more than they should. They want to share their experience.

The stories they tell guests are so outside the experience of most visitors, especially the few tourists who now come to Cambodia, that

some staying at the Hotel Cambodiana seem shaken.

"You have been swimming?" asks Sopheap, a 20-year-old girl whose father was once a tourist guide at the great ruins of Angkor. "When I was little, I used to swim in the Mekong river. The Khmer Rouge did not mind that, but they used to scold me when I went to see my mother in the evenings. I had been separated from my parents, you see. They said that Angkor (the organisation) was my mother and father now."

"Sir, do you know when the United Nations will bring peace to Cambodia?" asks Sarath, another waitress, as she serves a guest a drink. "Do you know what day they will arrive, sir?"

It seems an anomaly, a gross contradiction in one of the world's poorest countries, and one in which a debilitating and cruel civil war is leaving thousands of cri-

ples. One is used to seeing contrasts in Third World countries between rich and poor, but a glitzy hotel in Cambodia seems at first to be just too much.

The difference between the lives of those at the hotel swimming pool, and the impoverished fisher folk on bamboo and thatched house boats on the river just 30 yards away, is immense. The fishermen are not even in the monetary economy. Even a government salary here is only \$3 a month. It is a measure of the graciousness of most Cambodians that those on the river wave cheerily to hotel guests.

The Hotel Cambodiana opened in June, after the building, started before the overthrow of the former Cambodian ruler, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in 1970, had lain abandoned for 20 years of war and Khmer Rouge terror. A joint venture between the Phnom Penh

government and an overseas Chinese who once lived in Cambodia, the structure in traditional Cambodian architectural style is partly complete and 100 rooms have opened, at a cost of \$25-a-night a room. Occupancy hovers around 50 per cent.

The hotel, as the management admits, still has some rough edges — no telephones in the rooms, no credit cards accepted — but this is compensated for by the great charm of the Cambodian staff.

The initial impression as one enters the air-conditioned lobby is of leaving steamy Cambodia for a faceless international hotel. The first party of nine North American tourists to come to Cambodia last week was distressed by the contrast with the impoverished city outside. But the feeling of sterility is soon dispelled as the staff greet guests by clasping their hands in front of their chests in a Buddhist

gesture of respect — a custom dying out among Phnom Penh officials who, after 11 years of Vietnamese occupation, have adopted the handshake.

But it is not all sweetness and light at the hotel. In the restaurant at night drunken Cambodian bachelors dance together on the floor, throw glasses about and fight over Vietnamese taxi girls. A sign at the entrance of the hotel gives a warning that guns and prostitutes are barred. Guns are checked in with security. The girls appear anyway. "When they dance, the Lambada, I turn my face away," said one waitress in the restaurant. "It is not the custom of Cambodian girls to hold their bodies close to a man's. Cambodian girls would never go to a man's room, like these Vietnamese girls do."

The Cambodian staff are also outspoken about the guests. "The Thais are good tippers, but the

Vietnamese steal the teaspoons," said a waiter. (Few Cambodians have a good word for Vietnamese, their ancestral foes).

Jean-Marie Bertron, the guest services manager, who was previously concierge at the Crillon on the Place de la Concorde, said: "I came to Cambodia because I have a Cambodian girlfriend in Paris and I wanted to see whether the country was as charming as she is. Sometimes things go a little bit to excess, but we wanted to open the hotel facilities to ordinary Cambodians, unlike China, where locals are barred. In time things will be smoothed out."

The room boys and girls ask guests to help them with their English, and all the staff speak the language in an idiosyncratic way. "Have a nice day," the lift boy brightly tells a guest, sleepily making his way from the bar to his room, just before midnight.



## Burma war puts tribes in peril



Seeking refuge: displaced by Burmese fighting, a Kachin joins the flight to Thailand, where the long necks of the tribeswomen have become a tourist attraction

## Bhutto vote-rigging claims rejected by Pakistan observers

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN KARACHI

A TEAM of international observers announced yesterday that it had credible reports of serious problems affecting Pakistan's general elections, but that the problems did not significantly alter the outcome.

The delegation's co-leader, Vahit Halefoglu said that they had received no evidence to substantiate allegations concerning irregular vote totals.

The report said the team had credible reports of several specific and serious problems, including the killing of a candidate, party workers and other civilians. It had documented attacks by armed

men on polling officials, agents and voters and the kidnapping and arrest of party workers. It had heard complaints of bias in the electronic media and concluded that Pakistani television coverage of the campaign was not balanced.

Its members had received unconfirmed allegations of an election cell in a provincial chief minister's secretariat that requested progressive reports of election results, in apparent violation of published election rules. The observers did not give the names of the parties believed responsible for the election irregularities.

The 40-member delegation from the National Democratic Institute (NDI), which drew members from 17 countries, said the elections at the local level were generally open, orderly and well-administered.

The ousted prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, had alleged massive countrywide rigging when she conceded defeat on Wednesday. To Miss Bhutto's allegations that three million bogus votes had been cast nationwide, a team member, Ken Wollack, said: "I don't think so."

However, he repeated the wish stated in the report that all complaints would be investigated by Pakistan Election Commission in a prompt manner. "I hope it will not take two or three years," he said.

The team said it had visited 500 to 600 polling sites in 30 constituencies throughout the country. The report was based on consensus and therefore no minority report would be issued. However, sources in the delegation said there had been a wide diversity of opinion among the 40 members.

Meanwhile, Miss Bhutto was reported by party sources to have directed her Pakistan People's Party candidates to participate fully in provincial assembly elections today. "We must take full part in the elections because our party's struggle for achieving its political objectives and ideological goals must go on," she told reporters on return from her home town Larkana.

Analysts said that after losing the national elections, Miss Bhutto's main interest now lay in retaining the majority and forming the provincial government in her home province of Sindh, which has been the traditional political base of her party.

Jam Sadiq Ali, who was formerly one of her political advisers and is now a bitter political opponent, predicted that the PPP would also lose in the provincial elections in Sindh.

He said that Miss Bhutto's opponents would form the next provincial government. He firmly denied the allegation about rigging in the national polls.

## Party feud threat in Indian states

FROM COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI

THE state governments of Gujarat in western India and Rajasthan in the northwest are in danger of collapsing after the break-up of the alliance between the Janata Dal and the Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) at the centre.

In both states the governments were run as coalitions; now the feuding Janata Dal and BJP have ordered their party members of the state legislative assemblies not to support the chief minister of the other party.

In Gujarat, Chimanbhai Patel, the Janata Dal chief minister, insisted that he could continue his government even without the support of the BJP members, thanks to the support of 11 independent members. However, in Rajasthan the BJP chief minister, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, will be unable to survive without support from the Janata Dal.

In Rajasthan, communal clashes in the wake of the all-India strike called by the BJP to protest against the arrest of its president, Lal Krishan Advani, have not yet subsided. According to the police, 46 people have died so far, but the United News of India news agency put the figure at around 68 deaths, according to unofficial sources. The army staged a flag march yesterday in the curfew-hit cities of Jaipur and Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

Rajiv Gandhi, the leader of the Congress (I) party, yesterday demanded the dismissal of the Rajasthan government and the imposition of president's rule in the state. Mr Gandhi claimed that riots provoked by communal elements and fuelled by a complete collapse of government had created a situation of unbridled chaos in Jaipur. He said the scale of death and devastation had touched unprecedented levels and alleged that hundreds had been killed.

Elsewhere, communal flare-ups have been reported from Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in the south, and West Bengal in the east. The toll throughout the country is around 80.

Communal tensions are likely to increase in the next few days with the Hindu organisation Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the BJP refusing to call off the programme for beginning the construction of a Hindu temple at Ayodhya at the spot where a Muslim mosque still stands.

Hundreds of thousands of Hindu devotees will be entering Ayodhya on Tuesday to take part in the voluntary work of building the temple. The movement of the volunteers is so organised that different groups are being brought into the northern state of Uttar Pradesh at different entry points, conducted by retired army and civil officials. The voluntary workers have been issued with identity cards on the back of which is a chart of their route and destination.

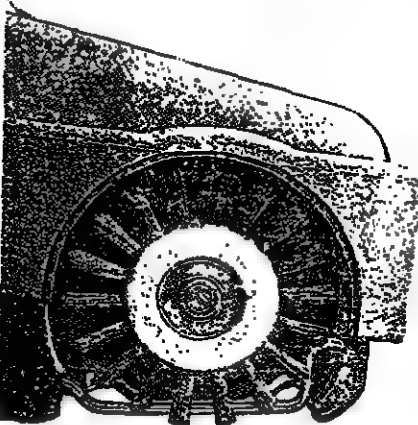
Although a huge force of police and paramilitary forces have been deployed in Ayodhya to keep the Hindu volunteers away from the mosque site, and there are police pickets on the borders of the state, it is feared that there will be large scale violence.



Gandhi urged dismissal of Rajasthan government

Some ideas are so simple you wonder why no one thought of them before.

The brushes on the sides of a Panasonic Wall-to-Wall vacuum cleaner are that kind of idea.



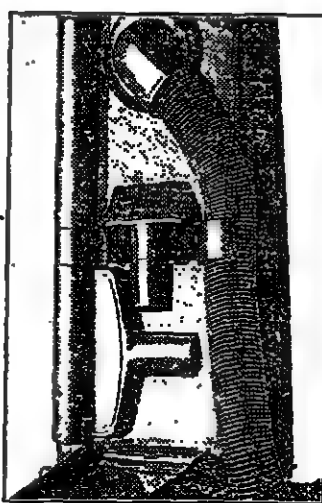
They loosen and lift dirt right up to the edge of your skirting board.

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A 650 watt motor brings a lot of power to bear on your carpet, cleaning it thoroughly and effortlessly.



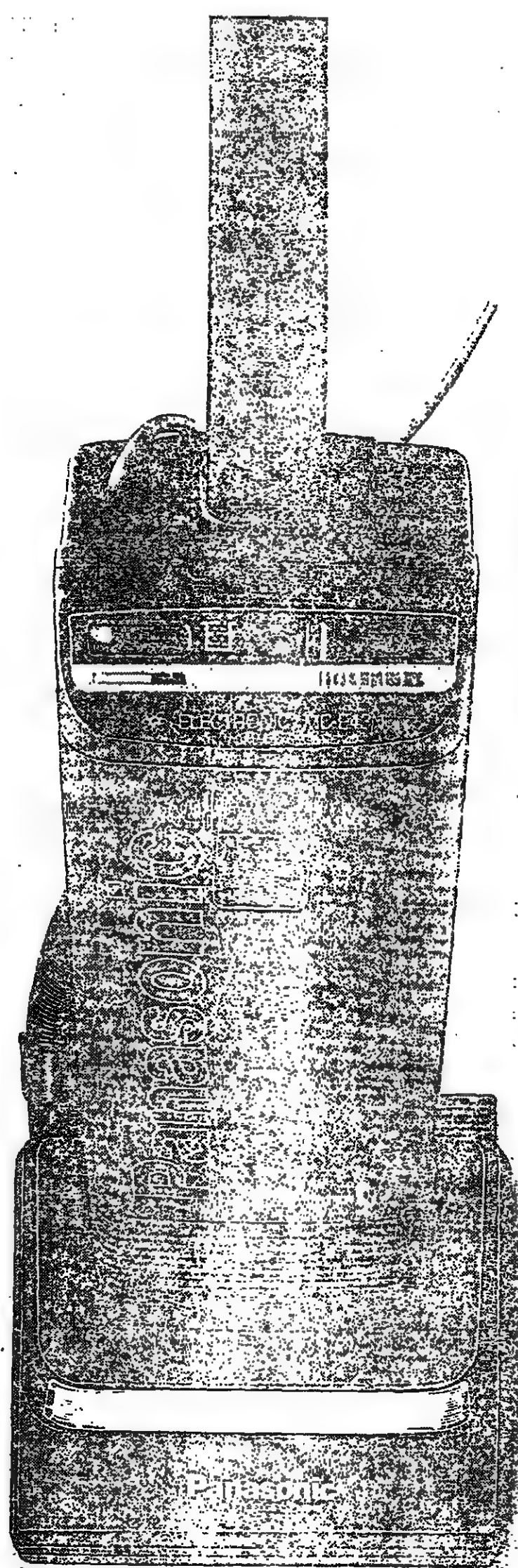
There are also accessories housed within the cleaner itself, big re-useable dust bags with an indicator to tell you when they're full, and a clean air filter.

A vacuum cleaner isn't something you buy everyday.

So before you make a decision, make sure you've checked out the one that'll give you the edge.

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THE  
VACUUM  
CLEANER  
THAT  
GIVES  
YOU  
THE  
EDGE

## Shanghai seeks foreign capital

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

SHANGHAI, steeped in nostalgia for the days when the port city was the financial power-house of the East, is struggling to resurrect its capitalist past and has received the support and blessing of Peking.

The central government, which in the past was more used to fiercely defending socialism against the capitalist menace, is eager to prove to the world its open-door policy still stands after the June 1989 events at Tiananmen Square.

Li Peng, the prime minister, visited Shanghai this April to stamp the central government's seal of approval on the project of attracting back foreign investment, entrusted to Zhu Rongji, the mayor of Shanghai.

Mr Zhu wants to attract foreign investment not to the faded glory of the Bund, where the European-built mansions that once housed foreign banks are too closely linked in the public mind with colonialism. Instead, he is trying to lure foreign money to the dusty, grey opposite east bank of the Huangpu River, which boasts little but a few construction sites and a lot of rice paddies.

Shanghai is estimated to need 20 billion yuan (about £2

billion) in the first three to five years to make the east bank work.

However, mauling the east bank is at present, many people in Shanghai see it as the only way to lift the city out of its rut. About half of Shanghai's economy is controlled by central government organs since capitalism was dismantled in the city after 1949 and, while Canton hands only 10 per cent of its income to Peking in the form of taxes, the city hands over more than 60 per cent.

One of Mr Zhu's most daring innovations has been to gather an official advisory group of foreign bankers and businessmen around him, arch-capitalists every one and, at a conference last week on developing Shanghai, American and European businessmen criticised all aspects of China's investment environment. The conference, however, also had a political message. Both Caspar Weinberger, the former US Defence Secretary, and William Simon, the former Treasury Secretary, gave speeches praising the changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and emphasising the need for political as well as economic reform in China.

## Cult raided as police seek truth

FROM JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

HAVING finally found a pretext to make arrests, more than 1,000 police have raided offices across Japan of the Aum Supreme Truth sect, a maverick but thriving Buddhist cult whose founder makes devotees drink his blood and sip poisons brewed from his long black hair.

Residents of Kumamoto in Kyushu, a southern island of Japan, fearing plans by the sect's leader, Shoko Asahara, to build a commune and training camp for some of his 5,000 followers in their midst, put the police under pressure to make a move against the cult. Police arrested the cult's lawyer this week and seized membership records at a dozen of the sect's offices throughout Japan on suspicion of shady land deals on Kyushu. The director of the property company that arranged the land deals was also arrested, and warrants are out for two senior cult members.

Mr Asahara, the tubby, bearded leader

of the sect, has been in police sights but out of their grasp ever since detectives questioned him last year about the disappearance of Tsutsumi Sakamoto, a lawyer who fought for families that have lost children to the cult.

Mr Sakamoto, his wife and baby son vanished from their home in Yokohama last November and have not been seen since. Police found a badge of Mr Asahara's sect on the floor of the Sakamotos' empty house, but the guru says he knows nothing of the case.

Mr Asahara, who claims he predicted the police raid, was not arrested. He said: "It is possible the police will now arrest me. Globally expanding religions have always been oppressed by the powers that be."

He is spurned by fellow Buddhist sects and by other religious groups, who cinge at his antics. The preacher, aged 35, became even more notorious last February when he ran unsuccessfully for parliament in a general election. He claims to be able to levitate, and to hold

his breath and meditate for hours under water. Photographs are the outside world's only proof, and darkroom experts say the pictures are clumsy photocopies.

But mockery in the media and the constraints of Japan's strait-laced middle class have not deterred those young Japanese looking for a meaning in life from paying a million yen (about £4,000) for Mr Asahara's course in yoga meditation and psychic power. The price includes a swig of the guru's blood, although not all his followers seem able to swallow the sales pitch.

One disenchanted former disciple said: "Though we did not see the blood being taken from the master, they handed out a small wine glass containing three to four teaspoonful of blood to each of us. It had no effect. I could not get the power."

"I decided to leave the cult when they asked me to write a will saying that all my property would go to the cult if I died."



John Rae

## One over the eight at nine

Last Christmas, a 14-year-old girl died after drinking a bottle of brandy during a party at a friend's house, unsupervised by adults. The tragedy was avoidable, but no law was broken.

In America, the legal drinking age is 21; in Britain it is five. That will surprise many people, who think it is illegal to drink under the age of 18. It is illegal for someone under 18 to buy or be sold alcohol, but from the age of five a child can lawfully possess or consume alcohol anywhere except on licensed premises.

Most people start drinking before they are 14. Do we approve or disapprove? The confusion is manifest in a variety of ways. The most visible are the "accidental of teeny boppers" headlines that greet every survey of young people's drinking behaviour. But nowhere in the reports is there any hint that we might be wrong to let them drink at all.

Apparently we want children to be free to consume alcohol from the age of five, but when they find it difficult to handle, we look around for a scapegoat. If they drink too much too soon, it must be someone else's fault for encouraging them. The popular scapegoat is alcohol advertising. By calling for a ban on alcohol advertising, the MASH report on young people and alcohol sides with the question of whether the legal drinking age should be raised. But if the children need to be protected from such advertising, are they mature enough to use the product advertised? Are we worried only by misuse of alcohol by young people, or is there an age below which we think they should not drink at all?

Those who argue for the status quo say a higher legal drinking age would be unenforceable, and that the matter is best left to parents' discretion. To prohibit alcohol until the mid or late teens would, they say, give it the attraction of forbidden fruit, encouraging over-indulgence when the legal age is reached. Far better, the argument runs, to bring up our children with a little wine and water over Sunday lunch so that they learn how to handle alcohol under parental supervision.

I used to find this argument convincing, but now I have doubts. This is not because alcohol consumption by under-18s is increasing, but because I think parents' willingness to exercise responsible discretion is decreasing. The idea that parents use the wine-and-water approach to teach children to drink sensibly is, I suspect, part of middle-class mythology.

An increase in the legal drinking age would be difficult to enforce — not least because we have been so inconsistent in our approach to the law prohibiting the purchase of alcohol by young people — but it would have definite advantages. As the MASH report points out, the law "can be an important

signal of society's attitude". The present law signals adult ambivalence. It would be much better to give a clear signal that we believe there is an age below which individuals are too immature to drink.

If the legal drinking age were raised to, say, 16, parents' role would be clarified. They would be held responsible if their children possessed or consumed alcohol. That would strengthen the parents' hand when young teenagers holding a party asked if they could have alcoholic drink. It would simply be illegal.

It would also be illegal to provide alcohol for a person under 16. At a boarding school earlier this year, pupils aged 14 and 15 paid a local taxi-driver to buy drinks for them. The taxi-driver was not breaking the law because the pupils were well above the legal drinking age.

The age was set at five in 1908. The idea was to protect very young children, but Parliament did not intend the law to imply approval of drinking by older children and teenagers. For more than 50 years, the social convention was that whatever the law allowed, young people did not drink until their late teens. There were occasional exceptions, but by and large, those of us who grew up before 1960 did not have access to alcohol in childhood and youth.

What stopped us was not the absence of advertising, as Lady Masham would like to believe — "My goodness, my Guinness" was part of the wallpaper — or our comparative poverty, but the attitude of adults, who disapproved. And we knew they disapproved.

Now, adults may still disapprove, but they are much less willing to translate disapproval into action. East Glasgow health council claimed recently that "primary school children have gone back to school drunk after lunchtime". It called for strong measures, but not for the sanction that would have sprung to mind 25 years ago — that headteachers should exercise more effective discipline.

I believe the legal drinking age should be 16, while the legal age for purchasing alcohol should remain 18. It should be an offence not only to sell alcohol to a person under 18 but to give alcohol to a person under 16. Parents should be held responsible if their children possess or consume alcohol. These changes should be supported by greater emphasis on alcohol in health education.

These proposals will not be popular, because they call society's bluff. If we think it is appropriate that children and young teenagers should drink, we should stop complaining when they do. If we think it inappropriate, we should change the law to reflect our conviction.

The author, formerly Head Master of Westminster School, is now director of the Portman Group.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

It is good that this column bears no headline beyond the "and moreover..." trademark. We columnist are an odd bunch and need a catchy corporate logo to unite us. But this essay does have a title: "I Sell My First Book".

It happened last Saturday lunchtime, at the lounge bar of the Midland Hotel, Derby.

The Midland has now been restored to its early-Victorian elegance and become a pleasant oasis amid the railway sidings. Nearly a century and a half has intervened since Victoria herself dined there, famously, on "Les coquilles de moulin" and "Tartaretes de confiture"; the menu is still proudly displayed in the carpeted hush. It is easy to forget the basis of such wealth, which is illustrated by a sign not a hundred yards from the hotel foyer: "British Rail Engineering Ltd., Bogie Manufacturers to the World".

The carpeted hush was interrupted by me, my interviewer, and his tape-recorder.

We made an engaging pair. Geoffrey Hammersley, of the *Derby Evening Telegraph*, and I, Geoff had lost his voice that was rasping in a manner that suggested a bit-part on a pornographic phone-line. I, having almost forgotten our rendezvous, was wearing a scruffy T-shirt and jeans that have torn knees not because George Michael's jeans do, but because I cannot sew. I had left my cashcard in London, and had with me £4.36 for the weekend.

Geoff was to interview me on the eve of publication of my first book. He bought drinks. I calculated that if I bought the first, that would leave £2.57. At first I tried whispering, too, to reassure him. The barmaid eyed us suspiciously when we whispered to her about pale ale and nuts. As I in my torn trousers and Geoff clutching his tape-recorder and copy of *Inca-Kola*, tramped into the lounge, she seemed to contemplate summoning help, then decided we were harmless.

The interview went well. The book is a light-hearted account of my escapades in Peru, and formality evaporated as I recounted more adventures. I babbled away, Hammersley croaked, and the tape-recorder whirled. We were alone.

Or almost. Across the room were three diners. I now know them to have been Mr and Mrs Powrie-Smith, and a chap I take to have been their son.

It is easy in a noisy room to ignore extraneous conversation, but in this silence, broken only by my account of prostitution along the gold-rush tributaries of the Amazon, and Geoff's stage whisper, it was impossible. Poor Mr and Mrs Powrie-Smith's quiet snack was wrecked. I went over to apologise.

"Oh no!" said Mr Powrie-Smith. "We were fascinated." Mrs Powrie-Smith nodded. Their son smiled politely.

"In fact," said Mr Powrie-Smith, "we were wondering if we could buy a copy of your book? You don't by any chance have one in that bag, do you? Perhaps we could ask you to sign one for us?"

They meant it! I did have one copy — just one. But it was my own and only copy.

"Not really," I said. "But you could always write to Weidenfeld and Nicolson..." I began to give the address, then faltered. It seemed such a mean response to their kind interest. I reached into my bag.

"Here," I said. "I do have just this one..."

But what about the money? The generous thing, surely, was to refuse payment? On the other hand, there was my little problem of the £2.57... Mr Powrie-Smith solved it.

"Take this," he said, holding out a £20 note. I found I had grabbed it before even considering how a writer is supposed to behave in this situation.

"I owe you a fiver," I said. "Towards your second book." Mrs Powrie-Smith nodded approvingly, glancing at the holes in my jeans. Their son smiled. I signed my book, said goodbye to Geoff, thanked them profusely, and left.

One of my brothers says that when he told Dad (an engineer) that he wanted to be a pilot, Dad said: "Good. You'll be the only one with a proper job."

Stepping, now, from the portico of the Midland Hotel, I fingered the £22.57 in my pocket, thought "What was that, again, Dad?", broke into a run, and, leapt, unexpectedly, into the air.

# December dateline for battle

Peter Stothard, US editor, reports on Bush's tougher policy as more American troops are sent to the Gulf



Time's message catches up with American paratroops at an outpost near the border with Iraq

Thousands of American troops in Germany can give up their hopes of a quick return home. Instead of picking yellow ribbons off the oak trees of Arkansas, they will be collecting iron rations from a quartermaster in the Saudi desert.

The acceleration of the build-up in the Gulf has taken even the military by surprise. American troops in Germany may not be the fittest in the world, but as President Bush prepares to raise the level of forces in the Gulf to around 300,000, their last days abroad look increasingly likely to include their first days of real fighting.

Early next week the defence secretary, Richard Cheney, meets his senior military adviser, General Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, to plan the details of the reinforcement, which could be up to 100,000 men. Operation Desert Shield, already the fastest American build-up since Vietnam, is about to set new logistical records.

According to State Department sources, James Baker, the secretary of state, is planning a tour of the Gulf next week to ensure the maximum solidarity of the American-led alliance if shots have to be fired. In the past two days, senior officials, including the CIA director, William Webster, have heightened their rhetoric against Iraq, suggesting that the removal of Saddam Hussein is now a clear American aim.

For almost three months American policy has run on the twin tracks of military preparedness and diplomatic initiative, but the White House has decided that diplomacy has led to a playing down of the military option. Saddam appears to believe that time is still on his side and that he raises the cost of American action by reinforcing Kuwait, and keeps trying to splinter the anti-Iraq alliance, he will prevail.

President Bush is determined that American military power in the region will at least match the diplomatic effort. The principal aim of sending further troops is to show that America retains the option of winning back Kuwait by force. The second aim is to fill military gaps exposed by the first weeks in the desert and to increase the armoured strength of the US

army. A third is to extend the delay before full military readiness is clearly achieved, so allowing the United Nations its best chance either to bring a peaceful settlement or to give further support for war.

There has been no official change of policy — the American engine is still on its twin tracks — but the sounds of war are louder than they have been since the middle of August.

A date around the end of the first week in December is now seen as the new earliest "working target" for an assault. By then the American forces should be sufficient to fight a land battle for Kuwait with a minimum level — albeit still substantial — of casualties.

The November elections will have been and gone and broader UN cover for military action will probably have been secured.

Most critically in the administration's eyes, the Saudi Arabian government is pressing Washington to show more determination. Yesterday it was reported that Mr Baker will soon seek Saudi permission to launch a first strike on Iraq. If he does, the request is likely to be a formality, for King Fahd is believed to want his allies to make best use of the winter months, when the weather is favourable for a desert war. He is reportedly determined that the war be over and American forces in Saudi Arabia reduced to a minimum by the time of the

pilgrimages to Mecca and Medina in June.

There was concern earlier this week that Saudi Arabia might be softening its position. But officials now believe that it too must be seen to have a diplomatic as well as a military posture. Last week's "compromise" suggestions by the Saudi defence minister are interpreted predominantly as a diplomatic voice directed towards the Arab world.

The State Department cannot rule out the possibility of a significant split in opinion within the Saudi royal family. But the Saudi embassy in Washington has been urging that only principled adherence to the commitment to restore the government and terri-

tory of Kuwait is acceptable. Prince Bandar, the Saudi ambassador, has taken an increasingly hawkish position. He said yesterday he was "not optimistic" about the chances of a peaceful outcome.

Some observers believe that American commitments to Saudi Arabia, given in return for the original permission to base US forces on Saudi soil, include the downfall of Saddam Hussein and the destruction of his chemical and nuclear forces.

Any American attack is still likely to begin with the kind of air assault described last month by the then air force chief, Mike Dugan. His loose tongue about attacks on Saddam and his mistress may have brought him disrepute, but his thinking is still the centrepiece of American strategy.

Civilian casualties need not, it is said, be as extensive as Dugan suggested. But America still hopes that if the Iraqi air force can be destroyed on the ground and the Iraqi officer class can be convinced of allied air superiority, a street-by-street recapture of Kuwait will be made unnecessary by an anti-Saddam coup.

Yet the Pentagon is determined that the wherewithal for an efficient storming of Kuwait will be ready on the Saudi border and in the regional air and naval forces. It also wants more artillery to deal with the recent improvements in Iraq's air and land defences in Kuwait. "Saddam must know that he cannot frighten us into a policy that rules out a land attack," said a Pentagon official.

The Bush administration has backed its argument for greater forces with intensifying rhetoric about the "rape of Kuwait" and, in particular, the treatment of American hostages. The safeguarding of American lives in the human shield is still the most likely cause belli, officials believe.

But the danger of Iraq lashing out from its corner is still occupying minds in the administration. Mr Cheney said on Thursday that Israel might be a target in such circumstances. America is anxious to have sufficient forces to deter and counter such an assault, which, although almost certainly suicidal for Iraq, might leave the region a political wreck for decades to come.

Nikolai Tolstoy accuses Cowgill of distortion over the forcible return of the Cossacks

## Damned by Macmillan's own diary

Daniel Johnson's article "Macmillan: a vindication that came too late" (*The Times*, October 19) claims that publication of the Cowgill enquiry into the circumstances of the repatriation of Cossacks and Yugoslav citizens from Austria in 1945 proves irrefutably that charges against the former prime minister were from the outset groundless. The case I presented, he alleges, was based solely on malice, and I should apologise accordingly. I am certainly prepared to apologise as abjectly as would be appropriate were I to be persuaded that the matter indeed stands as represented by Mr Johnson. However, I do not see that this is in any way the case, and will briefly explain why.

My principal charge against Macmillan is readily set out. Among the Cossacks repatriated by force or lies were several thousand Russian émigré soldiers and refugees who had been living in Western Europe since the revolution of 1917. The Soviets were desperate to lay their hands on the émigrés, but Allied policy rigorously prohibited the repatriation of these people against their will. Though Macmillan was informed of their presence (though not of their precise numbers), he provided General Keightley, the British commander on the spot, with a "verbal directive" to deliver all Cossacks without discrimination to the Soviets.

Because the directive was so clearly in violation of Allied policy, Keightley thereafter consistently concealed from higher command both the presence of the émigrés and the fact that they were being handed over.

What is the evidence for this? Clearly, I can do no more here than indicate a few of the premises. Up to the eve of Macmillan's visit to 5th Corps on May 13, 1945, when he urged Keightley to return the Cossacks, the general had shown himself hostile in word and deed to the idea of sending back any Cossacks — least of all the émigrés with foreign passports.

Shortly afterwards, his viewpoint suffered a sea-change, when he decided to flout clear orders from his superiors not to use force to repatriate Soviet citizens. At no time was higher command informed that it was intended to flout both the rules and the wishes of the thousands of non-Soviet Cossacks being handed over, brutal force being employed wherever necessary against men, women, children and even babies. All this was in flat contradiction of orders, and surely requires some explanation, as does the extent to which Keightley went out of his way to frustrate the vigorous efforts of Generals Alexander and Eisenhower to evacuate all the Cossacks to safety with the American army.

Essentially there are two feasible alternatives. Did Keightley undertake these motiveless, profitless,

dis honourable and inhumane actions out of racism or bloody-mindedness? Or did Macmillan's "advice" adduce sufficient political considerations to persuade an able but intellectually limited commander to undertake actions no British officer would normally contemplate? The only reason provided by General Keightley at the time for sending the Cossacks to the Soviets rather than to the Americans was the "verbal directive" from Macmillan to Corps Commander.

For reasons of space it is impossible to do more than indicate the direct evidence for Macmillan's complicity, while reminding readers of his extraordinary evasiveness on the subject, both at the time and later.

Though the "advice" or "verbal directive" to hand over all the Cossacks was the only recorded decision made during his conference with Keightley, Macmillan appears to have avoided mentioning it in his report to the Foreign Office two days later. After 1974 he repeatedly declined either to see me, or to avail himself of repeated opportunities to correct my writings before publication. Others, including his son Maurice, encountered similar obduracy. Yet if his involvement was as marginal or non-existent as Mr Johnson claims, would he not have said as much, publicly or privately?

What is one to make of Macmillan's private admissions to his

biographer, Alistair Horne, when they are isolated from the surrounding passages of commentary? "I may well have said 'we'd better send them all back'... Quite possibly we did send back the White Russians, by mistake..." Save for the "by mistake", is this not in essence the major part of what I allege?

I conclude with a passage taken from page 63 of the Cowgill enquiry, which conveniently illustrates both Macmillan's equivocal behaviour in 1945 and what I regard as the flawed arguments of his defenders today. Much of the enquiry's defence of Macmillan is based on his supposed openness at the time about his treatment of the Cossacks. Yet he was not candid. Only by inserting a sentence from Macmillan's private diary into a public document has the report managed to make this case. Let me explain.

Five days after his visit to Keightley, Macmillan reported to the War Secretary that there was "in Austria one British Corps... charged with... dealing with the White Russians and Cossacks, together with their wives and families, serving these German forces". Although Macmillan had decided (with Keightley) that they should all be handed over to the Soviets, he omits mention of the fact — which seems a little strange, if all was in accordance with government policy, and given the government's need to know how

these grave problems were being resolved. One might think this piece of evidence an obstacle to the Cowgill report's argument in support of Macmillan's openness with his colleagues and superiors in everything to do with the handovers. But what do we find? After the words "these German forces", the report adds the sentence "We have decided to hand them over". There follows a vigorously argued paragraph claiming that this is strong evidence of Macmillan's candour towards his colleagues.

But the sentence "We have decided to hand them over" is nowhere to be found in the original document, and has been taken from Macmillan's private diary entry for May 13. Regrettably, this is not the sole occasion where the enquiry has overstated its case on the basis of arguments that cannot be sustained by the evidence.

Mr Johnson may well be satisfied with this approach to historiography, but I fear few professional historians will share his equanimity. I certainly do not feel inclined to do so, nor do I intend to follow the implications of his or Cowgill's contention, which implicitly seems to attribute responsibility for the monstrous crime of 1945 to the wholly guileless figures of Churchill, Alexander, McCleery, Mark Clark, and other honourable and chivalrous statesmen and soldiers.

## Saddam takes a licking

The only people to have done well out of the Gulf confrontation so far, it seems, are quick-witted stamp collectors. Since the invasion two months ago, the Iraqis have insisted that all letters posted in Kuwait must have an Iraqi stamp. This has caused a world of excitement in the normally sedate world of philately, where envelopes bearing the alien stamp but a Kuwaiti postmark are already in great demand.

British collectors first became aware of the value of army-occupation stamps during the South African war, when the Boers insisted on use of their own stamps in areas of Natal and the northern Cape briefly under their control — as did the British when they moved into the Orange Free State and Transvaal. Similarly, only letters carrying Argentine stamps had any chance of being delivered during the Argentine occupation of the Falklands.

The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait must be brief if the new batch of collectors' items is to achieve substantial value, otherwise the market will be swamped. Hugh Jeffries, editor of Stanley Gibbons' *Stamp Monthly*, says the US military involvement could lead to strong demand by American collectors, and so push up prices. "You can't say that any letter sent out this month will be worth £10 next month. The market could take two or three years to settle down, but such letters will be worth holding on to."

Hunter Davies, writer and avid

stamp collector, says: "Ideally you want a country taken over for half an hour, new stamps put out and then a hurried withdrawal."

Kuwait does not have a distinguished philatelic history. Until the early 1970s it produced frequent new issues known in the trade as wallpaper. But it did once offer an opportunity for the sharp-eyed. In 1973, when Kuwait was under Anglo-Indian administration, postal officials produced a "Kuwait" overstamp. Sets of stamps bearing this mis-spelling now fetch up to £19,000.

Race-poets have momentarily swung their binoculars off Lester Piggott to admire the current form of Viscount Whitelaw. The former deputy prime minister has amassed an impressive 405 points in the Tote-Pacemaker competition in which contestants nominate ten horses to follow at the start of each Flat season. But such is the quality of the field of 4,000 that he approaches the home straight but a lowly eighteenth.

## Cash and harry

In an attempt to please disparate elements in the Tory party, Sir Geoffrey Howe may have raised hackles all round with his choice of MPs to represent the party at a pan-European parliamentary conference in Rome next month on monetary union.

Sir Geoffrey, in consultation with the Tory whips office, agonised so long that the Italian authorities demanded a final list. In the event, the two most extreme views on the Tory benches will be represented. On one side Hugh Dykes and Robert Hicks, regarded as Euro-fanatics,



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and on the other William Cash, a vehement opponent of a federal Europe. A Tory insider says: "It's the centricists versus the fanatics. They won't be able to agree on a thing." A precursor, perhaps, of the intergovernmental conference a month later, which will pit Mrs Thatcher against the rest.

## Pulling power

Well-deserved tributes will be heaped on Dame Alicia Markova at an 80th birthday gala performance in Manchester next month, but will her role in helping to ensure Oxford's Boat Race dominance be among them?

Competing in lightweight events at Henley in the 1970s, Daniel Topolski was a house guest, with Dame Alicia, of the ballerina's sister, Bunny Kempner. Anxious that he and other members of his four lose weight but keep up their strength, he sought advice from Dame Alicia. She recommended her own high-fibre diet, strong on raisins, nuts and roughage. He and his fellow crew adopted it, and won the silver. The next year they won the

gold. Then followed Oxford's long string of successes with Topolski as coach.

Topolski, who is about to see his book, *True Blue*, turned into a feature film, should perhaps go to Manchester for the gala evening, along with the Princess of Wales, and give credit where it is at least partly due.

## Unsightly Prospekt

Not everything about glasnost is automatically good. The Moscow underground, almost every station of which is like a miniature art gallery with murals, mosaics and chandeliers, is being disfigured by illuminated posters advertising

prestige advertising sites in the Soviet Union. The Moscow underground sites are magnificent.

Quite. So will the advertising not ruin it? "The sites have been chosen with advice from Russian architects," says Webster. "They are not meant to disturb the main architectural features." One can't wait until they start on Red Square.

## So bad for the pride

Opera lovers at the Coliseum last night for Busoni's *Dr Faust* were vividly reminded of the English National Opera's cash crisis. During the performance, a spotlight was trained on the giant plaster lions above the stage, and even those without opera glasses could see they were called in dust.

Peter Jones, managing director of the ENO, looks forward to the time when he can afford to have the lions professionally dusted. "Their poor golden heads are now grey," he says, "but cleaning is an expensive process, involving the erection of lots of scaffolding. At night I dream of golden lions with cash pouring out of them."







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## UNLASHED FROM THE MAST

The song of the Sirens is now enveloping the ship of Mrs Thatcher's cabinet and she appears to have run out of rope and of beeswax. For the past few weeks, she and her colleagues have watched recession loom over the horizon, abandoned the faith and grabbed at the dusty old nostrums about wage restraint that Whitehall keeps in reserve for panicky ministers. Now the Trades Union Congress has picked up the refrain. If ministers want exemplary wage restraint, the TUC, according to yesterday's *Times*, will offer it, provided ministers offer employment protection in return.

After more than a decade of estrangement, the TUC's old corporatist yearning to cohabit with government remains overpowering. From the moment John Major and the employment secretary, Michael Howard, began reciting Lord Callaghan's 1979 pay-restraint speeches last summer, the TUC could no longer restrain itself. Next week it will put forward a possible deal to the National Economic Development Council, itself a relic of the old days. Faced with predictions that the recession could cost 500,000 jobs, the TUC is ready to offer "responsibility" on wages following entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism, if the government will respond. Mentioned are infrastructure support, investment in job creation and even a "Europe-wide system of collective bargaining". The TUC spots a weakening of the cabinet's non-interventionist ideology. At least, it says, let us talk.

Anybody capable of recalling the state of the British economy in the 1970s, especially Edward Heath's incomes policy of 1972 and Labour's abortive social contract, will greet this with a hollow laugh. While Mr Heath achieved a measure of wage restraint through statutory fiat, imposed by civil servants, Labour's social contract with the unions soon collapsed into the winter of discontent. The TUC could not deliver. Even where individual trade unions ignored their duty to their members and promised restraint, their members showed them the door. Workers do not join unions because they want them to implement government macroeconomic policy, let alone clean up when policy fails.

## LIGHT, LIBERTY AND LEARNING

The chaos that has descended upon universities with the collapse of their new financing system is an accident that has been waiting to happen since the heady and heedless days of expansion of the 1960s. Blame for the immediate shambles can be laid equally at the doors of the universities and their new funding council, but the roots lie in unrealistic aspirations and weak management over a quarter of a century. The failed "bidding" exercise has merely exposed a truth that has long been evident but seldom admitted: that Britain cannot afford to match its overseas competitors on participation in higher education if all universities are centrally financed to the standard of an Oxford or Cambridge.

Conflicting pressures have been building up in the universities for some time. There is an inevitable tension between the desire to expand access to higher education and the obligation, keenly and properly felt in universities, to preserve academic standards. The consensus needed to strike a balance between the two objectives has been found in the polytechnic sector — now much beloved of ministers — but has been spectacularly absent from the Universities Funding Council (UFC) and from its dealings with its constituents.

The universities showed where their instincts lay in responding to the shortages of the early 1980s by hauling up the drawbridge and restricting further entry. Different times and higher fees have since encouraged them to take the opposite approach, but old attitudes are never far beneath the surface, especially where the limits of existing plant and staffing are in sight.

With hindsight, a system that required so famously cautious a group as the vice chancellors to entrust the whole of the next four years' grant to an untried bidding procedure was doomed to failure. Pricing courses too low in an attempt to undercut rivals could have caused serious and lasting damage, so sticking to the UFC's guide price

Unions are about bargaining the pay and security for those who pay them to do so.

Even more suspicious than the evidence of revived "responsibility" on the part of the unions is the irresponsibility of ministers. Leading Tories under the last Labour government, notably Sir Geoffrey Howe, were vocal in condemning ministers who told private managers how to run their businesses. They said that government should confine itself to controlling inflation and reforming the supply side of the economy. Passing the buck for failing to do this was not acceptable.

Passing the buck today, after 11 years in office, is even less so. Messrs Major and Howard seem to have forgotten all they were taught in the Tory academies of early Thatcherism. Their speeches on wage restraint are unvarnished interference, mercifully not yet backed by statute, in managerial discretion. So far, the unions and managers have turned a deaf ear. They know that if they demand or receive too much, they will lose profit or lose work. They do not need politicians on state salaries and indexed pensions to tell them so.

Now they find not just ministers but also the TUC on their backs, demanding they ignore the rules of the market and set their sights on "coming in below" some global norm, target or going rate. And the more they turn a deaf ear, the more inclined government and TUC will be to collude with each other to add enforcement to their exhortations. Here lies the merry road to chaos, which the British have so often trodden before.

The TUC's succumbing to nostalgia is perhaps understandable: it has had nothing to do for over a decade. For ministers there is less excuse. They should concentrate on setting their own sector in order. Average private sector earnings between April 1988 and April 1990 rose by 21 per cent; in central government, pay conceded by Mr Major, Mr Howard and others, rose by 24 per cent. Mrs Thatcher should ban ministerial talk of private sector wage restraint until the members of her cabinet have removed the beams from their own eyes.

for courses (as almost all did) was the obvious strategy. The polytechnics' funding council succeeded in encouraging a little more adventure by putting only 10 per cent of an institution's budget at risk, guaranteeing that the rest will be allocated outside the bidding process.

Some similar refinement may yet be possible for the universities, but it will not alter the fundamental mismatch shown up in the bidding exercise. The vice chancellors argue that they cannot maintain standards at lower prices; the UFC knows that it must deliver expansion with only a marginal increase in resources. Any government is going to want more higher education over the remainder of the century. No government, though, is likely to have the money to keep universities in the manner to which they have been accustomed.

The unavoidable conclusion is that all universities can no longer be regarded as equal in teaching and research, and superior to all polytechnics. The binary line that has divided the sectors cannot last, but its demise must lead to more selectivity, not less. There is at least as much difference between the top research universities and their lesser brethren as between the leading polytechnics and the average university. Disraeli's definition of a university as a place of light, liberty and learning is not inconsistent with an institution that concentrates on teaching, in the manner of many of the American state universities, rather than hanging on to a research status that is neither affordable nor efficient.

To ascribe such long-term objectives to the UFC in taking the action it did would be too generous. The council still appears to have little idea of how it will approach the task of medium-term planning. Yet if the eventual result of this week's debacle is to hasten a reform of university policy in Britain, the million sheets of paper that reportedly went into the bidding exercise will not have been wasted.

## A DRAGON DORMANT

The treatment of Wales is a useful test of the prime minister's attitude towards "subsidiarity", the principle that nothing should be decided by a higher instance which may be better regulated by a lower one. Within the United Kingdom, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are good cases in point. Plaid Cymru, the Welsh nationalist party, is this week demanding at its conference in Cardiff that the Principality, like such counterparts as the Bavarian Free State, deserves greater autonomy. The demand is neither lunatic nor "fringe". It deserves serious consideration.

The fate of the Welsh has been linked to that of England ever since Edward I built his magnificent castles from Harlech to Flint. But if Welsh nationalism sometimes has a ridiculous side, it still represents a real feeling of regional identity rooted in a common culture, geography and history, and quite distinct from that of England. While this identity may seem detached from that of Scotland and Northern Ireland, the Welsh secretary, David Hunt, would be foolish to ignore it. Wales has votes. Mr Hunt's party may find itself submerged by a hostile flood from beyond Offa's Dike, a flood which has already swept the impetuous of Islwyn to the brink of power.

Europe has long been the battleground of regional nationalisms, from Basques to Flemings, from Corsicans to Serbians, from Languedoc to Schleswig-Holstein. Such nationalism often displays an artificiality which may excite the ridicule of distant majorities. As the anthropologist, Julian Pitt-Rivers, has suggested, local "notables" whose role as intermediaries between the centre and the periphery is threatened by modern

communications, may try to resurrect barriers between the capital and the regions as a way of restoring their own status. The result can be linguistic intolerance, local chauvinism and even violence, which have little to do with tradition.

Yet the cause for which Plaid Cymru pleads is not merely the forlorn of an educated élite. While the Welsh language should not be used as an ethnic barrier to exclude outsiders, active steps to protect it from decay are perfectly in order. Bilingualism is an enriching phenomenon. The Welsh should be given every opportunity, short of compulsion, to preserve their cultural topsoil from steady erosion.

Governments have regularly bought off the Welsh by loading them with infrastructure projects and regional grants. Yet the test of a sympathetic regional policy is constitutional rather than financial: it is the principle of subsidiarity. Within a United Kingdom, and indeed within a European Community, in which the free movement of persons is a central freedom, the Welsh cannot expect to keep Wales to themselves. But they are entitled to a more dignified form of rule than that of colonial administrators from London.

They should have greater self-government, with a measure of ministerial accountability to a locally elected assembly in Cardiff. It would be hypocrisy for Britain to protest about the threat of European federalism in Rome this weekend, yet ignore the demand for greater subsidiary sovereignty from the component nations of the United Kingdom. Nationalism is never dead. It is merely dormant, ready to rise up when stupid governments ignore or insult regional cultures. Few cultures warrant energetic solicitude as much as the Welsh.

## Disasters, damages and responsibility

From Dr J. R. Waldram

Sir, Mr Justice Turner's ruling in the *Herald of Free Enterprise* manslaughter case (report, October 20) raises again the disturbing question of attitudes to professional responsibility. To have ruled that the degree of negligence fell short of that required for a verdict of manslaughter would have been understandable. But to rule that there was "no direct evidence that any of the five senior defendants would have perceived the risk was obvious" is surely surprising.

This is the point which the Attorney General now has under consideration.

In the Clapham rail disaster (report, September 11) it seems that engineers allowed a new signalling system to be installed by badly supervised and exhausted men working excessive overtime, and knew that the installation had not been properly tested.

In the Kegworth air crash (report, October 19) some blame clearly attaches to the pilot and co-pilot. Nevertheless, judging by their reported cockpit conversation, there must be considerable doubt whether they had ever been exposed to training which adequately emphasised the extreme importance of not shutting down the wrong engine of a two-engine aircraft.

In both these cases some of the blame surely attaches to engineers, managers or other professionals who failed to take advance action to prevent tragedies which a competent professional could and should have foreseen.

Are we forgetting in the nineties what standards have to be applied if professional responsibility is to be maintained?

Yours faithfully,  
J. R. WALDRAM,  
Pembroke College,  
Cambridge,  
October 26.

## No-fault insurance

From the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers

Sir, I was pleased to see that the Law Society's conference (report, October 22) has been considering no-fault schemes for the victims of medical mishaps. Such schemes are of considerable interest to a much wider group of professions, particularly those operating in the construction industry. The need to prove fault before compensation can be awarded can result in much delay and injustice, as was amply demonstrated in the recent Abbeystead explosion case.

It took four years from the explosion at Abbeystead which killed and injured a number of people before a final settlement was reached in 1988 on appeal. During that process the trial judge divided the responsibility between the engineering consultants who

From Mr Simon Pearl

Sir, The call by a leading disaster lawyer, Roger Pannone (report, October 20) for the introduction of punitive damage awards in civil cases, in the wake of the collapse of the Zeebrugge trial, is misconceived. The immediate effect of any such change would be that the current position, where most mass disaster cases settle without trial at a relatively early stage, will be reversed as lawyers grapple with the uncertainty of the court's new powers.

Difficult conflicts of interest will develop both for the plaintiffs' lawyer, who is faced with an otherwise acceptable offer of settlement of his clients' claim exclusive of a punitive damage figure, and for the defendants' lawyer faced with the difficulties of balancing the interest of insurers, who will cover the compensatory civil damage award, and the company exposed to the uninsured punitive damage element.

The concept would inevitably distort our system of civil damages and would have the unfortunate effect that more cases would be tried as opposed to settled, whilst the legal profession sought to grapple with the question of what was a "fair penalty" for wanton recklessness.

No doubt society has a desire for retribution, but despite the failure of the criminal proceedings against the Zeebrugge defendants the answer does not lie in the civil courts. The future victim of a disaster would be the ultimate loser if such a system were introduced, even if a small proportion of any punitive damage award would be allocated to him, as he or his family would have to wait for many years for a trial.

Yours sincerely,  
SIMON PEARL,  
Davies, Arnold, Cooper  
(Solicitors),  
6-8 Bouvaine Street, EC4A,  
October 22.

## Tramping tourists

From Mr Stuart Sexton

Sir, The Diary (October 20) suggests we might have to take off our shoes to save the excessive wear of millions of feet over the floors of St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. Visions of thousands looking for their left shoe afterwards!

In the palaces around Leningrad the tourist is required to slip on heavy-duty, elasticated cloth overshoes before trudging over the marble floors. It works very well there. It could work here in England. It certainly saves the floors.

Yours faithfully,  
STUART SEXTON (Director),  
Independent Primary and  
Secondary Education Trust,  
Warrington Park School,  
Chesham Common,  
Warrington, Surrey,  
October 23.

## Hindley release

From the Archbishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross

Sir, It may console Bernard Levin (October 15) to know that each time there is an outbreak of righteousness against Lord Longford and Myra Hindley I have used the opportunity to remind my congregation about the Christian claim that repentance and amendment of life are possible, even for the likes of Miss Hindley.

I do not claim to have the same level of moral courage as Lord Longford, since the tabloid custodians of theology and ethics are not even remotely interested in what I say, but I would suggest that I am not alone and that if Mr Levin were to conduct some kind of survey he might find that many thousands of ordinary, uninteresting parish priests have used the

same opportunity to say exactly the same thing.

It may be that Miss Hindley will have to spend the rest of her life in custody, not least for her own safety, but the safety of the families she so brutally destroyed, but I am quite prepared to accept that she is no longer the monster she was when she committed her terrible deeds.

Miss Hindley's significance lies not only in the horror of the crimes she committed, but also in the fact that she has touched a raw nerve, exposing the beast that lies within all of us. That is why she is so frightening, and that is why society is unable to contemplate her release.

Yours etc.,  
MICHAEL H. G. MAYER,  
The Rectory,  
Glannire,  
Co. Cork, Ireland.

## Pregnant superstars

From the Deputy Director-General of the CBI

Sir, Despite its beguiling headline, "Europe's pregnant superstars", your article in *Life and Times* (October 10) gave a disappointing account of the background to the EC draft directive on the protection of pregnant women at work. UK employers are committed to ensuring the highest practicable standards of health and safety at the workplace, including the conditions of work of pregnant women. But it is EC employers, not just those in the UK, who have expressed a measure of surprise and concern at Mrs Vasso Papandreou's latest brainwave.

The problem is two-fold. To the extent that the provisions of the draft directive are arguably health and safety-related, the scientific evidence of the need for remedy is

scant. We really should not be forced to contemplate EC instruments offering prescriptions unless also persuaded that there is indeed an illness to be treated.

Second, many of the directive's provisions smack suspiciously of health and safety protection but of employee rights: leave and payment arrangements, for example. The relationship with health and safety becomes indirect, even tenuous. The Treaty of Rome distinguishes between "employees' rights and interests" and "health and safety". So too should our Social Affairs Commissioner (Mrs Papandreou).

The CBI is far from complacent. Few firms can afford to ignore the contribution that women can

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

## Financial strains on family life

From Mrs Annemieke Lines

Sir, The debate about child benefit increases ignores the fact that there has been an enormous shift in financial resources over the last generation from families supporting children to the single, the childless and those whose children are no longer dependent upon them.

Raising a family (whether on one or two incomes) imposes heavy costs on parents and these are certainly not confined to the first five years of the child's life. Having children is not a private consumer choice in which the state and society have no interest. Even today's affluent childless couples will depend for their standard of living in old age upon the productivity and taxes of our children.

Child benefit (replacing both family allowances and child tax allowances) is the only recognition our fiscal system gives to the costs of child rearing. The "married couple's" allowance goes to every married man, irrespective of whether he has children, and a non-working wife cannot transfer her personal allowance to her husband, thus boosting net family income.

The failure to up-rate child benefit regularly in line with inflation means that the relative position of families with children gets steadily worse. Paying an increase only to the first child is unfair to larger families, many of whom are particularly hard-pressed.

Given the lack of fiscal support for families in the United Kingdom (in stark contrast with the position in many of our European

Community partners), is it any wonder that families are coming under increasing strain, that we enjoy record levels of family breakdown and divorce and that lower-income families are often reluctant to encourage their children to continue full-time education beyond 16?

A. LINES  
(Executive committee member,  
Family and Youth Concern),  
38 South Vale,  
Upper Norwood, SE19,  
October 24.

From the Director of the National Council for One Parent Families

Sir, In the midst of the debate about the £1 increase in child benefit it has largely gone unmentioned that Tony Newton also announced that one-parent benefit is to be frozen at £5.00. This benefit is paid in recognition of the additional financial difficulties faced by lone parents, whose average income is only one third that of two-parent families. The failure to uprate it appears to contradict the government's claim to be targeting the most needy.

One-parent benefit is not means-tested and is therefore of particular help to those lone parents who are struggling to convert income support into money for work. As Mr Newton has often spoken about the importance of getting lone parents off benefit it seems to be particularly short-sighted not to increase this payment.

Yours faithfully,  
SUE SLIPMAN, Director,  
National Council for One Parent Families,  
255 Kenilworth Road, NW5,  
October 25.

## Plight of Falashas

From Mr R. Gale

Sir, Mr Andrew Lycett (report, October 17) declares that American Jewish organisations accused Israel of going slow on its policy of accepting the Jews of Ethiopia. He goes on to say that the Jewish Agency is establishing a permanent community of Jews in Addis Ababa rather than helping them on their way to Israel. These two statements are perfectly true.

Israel does not need and does not want Ethiopian Jews to come to Israel.

Last July I was a guest of former President Jimmy Carter at his estate in Atlanta a few days before he visited Ethiopia. I asked Mr Carter to intercede with President Mengistu to facilitate the exodus of the 18,000 Jews in Ethiopia.

On his return he told me that he had discussed the question with

President Mengistu who told him that he had made it clear to the Israeli authorities for some time that the whole of the Jewish community in Ethiopia could leave with all their possessions whenever they wished to do so, but that Israel was unwilling to receive them because they were old and sick, handicapped and disabled and illiterate and without any skills, and that priority was being given to emigrants from the Soviet Union who were able bodied and literate and skilled.

President Mengistu indicated that the attitude of the Israeli agency was that the Jews in Ethiopia had waited long enough and they could continue to wait some time longer.

Yours faithfully,  
R. GALE,  
Egerton Chambers,  
240 Stamford Hill, N16.

## Charity on the shelf

From Mr W. T. N. Chidgey

Sir, Mr Adrian Randall's regret (October 16) that the Charities Bill is to be shelved is not universally shared. I suspect that the Charity Finance Directors' Group represents mainly the larger national charities that have a Home Office exemption, and the White Paper on the regulation of charities in certain respects aimed to make things appreciably easier for such charities.

I am involved as a local treasurer for a group of supporters of one of the less large national charities which does not have such exemption. Apart from the very useful financial contribution, flag days and house-to-house collections are valuable to us in raising the profile of a charity whose objects do not catch the public attention.

As I read the White Paper, the chance of such activities will almost disappear as the exemption holders will effectively absorb all the time available by simply staking their claim as of right.

Yours faithfully,  
W. T. N. CHIDGEY,  
Kytes, 249 Winsley Road,  
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

## Below par

From Mr Barry St Clair Alcock

Sir, After reading Alan Hamilton's report (October 15) on the new planning guidelines for golf courses, I am convinced that the members of the Council for the Protection of Rural England do not visit the same parts of golf courses that I do.

"Manicured, artificial landscape", forsooth. As any duffer knows, golf courses contain acres of unreconstructed jungle, blasted heath and whin bushes, inhabited by hyperkinetic rabbits manically constructing burrows for one's ball to get lost in.

I am, Sir, your highly handicapped servant,  
BARRY ST CLAIR ALCOCK,  
70 Bishop's Mansions,  
Bishop's Park Road, SW6,  
October 15.

## 51 years on

From Professor Jan Janowski and Professor Wladyslaw Leskiewicz

Sir, Approaching the 51st anniversary of the arrest by the Gestapo of the professors of the Krakow Universities, including 21 professors of our Academy of Mining and Metallurgy, which took place on November 6, 1939, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your appreciation of that action expressed in the articles published on December 22, 1939, January 25, 1940, January 30, 1940, February 19, 1940 and March 1, 1940.

We assure you that the generations in Poland will remember your gesture of the appreciation of barbarity unacceptable in the civilized world. Remembering that *verba volant, scripta manent*, we would like to express our feeling so that such a disgraceful deed will never be repeated.

Yours etc.,  
JAN JANOWSKI,  
WACLAW LESKIEWICZ,  
Akademia Gorniczo-Hutnicza,  
IM Staszica W. Krakowie,  
Al Mickiewicza 30,  
30-059 Krakow,  
Poland.

## Five easy pieces

From Mr J. Marshall-Cherret

Sir, My Swiss/English son is four and fluent in both English and French, though he has only just started to read. What set of five books would *Times* readers recommend and, apart from nursery rhymes, what five pieces of English music?

Yours sincerely,  
JON MARSHALL-CHERRET,  
Faubourg,  
1786 Sugiez, Switzerland.



## COURT CIRCULAR

### BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 26: The President of the Italian Republic, with the Italian Suite in attendance, left Buckingham Palace this morning upon the conclusion of the State Visit to the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

Captain the Hon Richard Marescaux was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Temporary Equerry to Her Majesty.

His Excellency Mr Karim Fahim (Al-Shaker) was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the State of Bahrain to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Rashid Al Dosari (First Secretary), Mr Faisal Al Dosari (First Secretary), Mr Hamed Al Asfor (Second Secretary), Mr Fud Al Maswadi (Third Secretary), Mr Mohamed Sharif Khonji (Third Secretary) and Mr Hassan Al Monfandi (Cultural Attaché).

Mr Al-Shaker was received by Her Majesty.

Sir Patrick Wright (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

His Excellency Monsieur Jean-Paul van Bellingen and Madame van Bellingen were received in Audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Belgium to the Court of St James's.

Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Secretary and Registrar of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath and delivered up to Her Majesty the Badge and Chain of Office.

Rear Admiral David Macey was received by The Queen, delivered up the Rod, Badge and Chain of Office on relinquishing his appointment as Gentleman Usher of the Scarlet Rod, and received from Her Majesty the Badge and Chain of Office upon his appointment as Secretary and Registrar of the most Honourable Order of the Bath.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Richard Peirse was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Gentleman Usher of the Scarlet Rod of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, when Her Majesty handed him the Rod, Badge and Chain of Office.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Cracknell was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Head of the Royal and Diplomatic Protection Department, Metropolitan Police when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attended a

lunch at the Dorchester Hotel.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Field Marshal the Lord Bramall).

Brigadier Clive Robertson was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee of The Prince Philip Fund for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead attended a Trustees meeting at the Guildhall, Windsor, and afterwards attended a dinner at the Castle Hotel where His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr John Henderson).

By command of The Queen, the Viscount Boyle (Lord in Waiting) called upon the Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda and Lady Jacobs at Dolphin Square, London SW1 and on behalf of the Her Majesty bade farewell to their Excellencies upon their departure from this Country.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
October 26: This evening The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), attended the Officers' Regimental Dinner at the Merchant Company Hall, Edinburgh.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Colonel of the Regiment (Brigadier C D M Ritchie).

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE  
October 26: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Honorary Colonel, The London Scottish Regiment, today received Colonel John Clemence, Major Keith Pearson and Pipe-Major John Spoor.

Her Majesty, on behalf of The Queen, decorated Pipe-Major Spoor with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

KENSINGTON PALACE  
October 26: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at a Dinner and Ball organised by the Devon County Committee of the Society at the Plymouth Mount House, Plymouth.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Devon (The Earl of Morley). The Hon Mrs Wills was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE  
October 26: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Northamptonshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant (Mr John Lowther).

In the morning His Royal Highness opened the refurbished Northampton Central YMCA, Cheyne Walk, Northampton.

In the afternoon The Duke of Gloucester visited the Caswell Adhesives Factory, Kettering and subsequently opened Saxon Hall, Raunds.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

## Church services tomorrow

### Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

ST MARK'S CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

ST NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

ST OLAV'S CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

ST EMMANUEL CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

ST MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

ST MARTIN'S CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

ST VINCENT'S CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

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ST NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

ST OLAV'S CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

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ST OLAV'S CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong, 1.30 P.M. Evensong, 7.30 P.M. Evensong, 9.15 P.M. Evensong, 11.15 P.M. Evensong.

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## OBITUARIES

### JACK JONES

Jack Francis Jones, yacht designer, has died aged 75. He was born on July 16, 1915.

THE characteristic which showed most clearly through the wide range of sailing and power craft designed by Jack Jones was their unmistakable beauty of line. With some 110 yachts built to his designs he was an influential force in the postwar yachting scene.

Jones started as an industrial designer, but soon turned his talents to the love that dominated his life — boats and the sea. One of his very early designs, Michelle, a powerful 41 foot Bermudian cutter, was published in the December 1939 *Yachting Monthly*, whose editor, Maurice Griffiths, gave much encouragement to his younger fellow designer. During the second world war Jones served in the RNVR to become a lieutenant in Coastal Forces. He was in action during the Dieppe raid in 1942, from which he received wounds that were to give him recurring bouts of severe pain for the rest of his life. He also took an active part supporting the D-day landings of June 1944.

With the war ended, he became increasingly occupied with yacht design, working first from converted stables at Wokingham on the river Deben, and subsequently from an office on Ferry Quay, Woodbridge, Suffolk, where he could contemplate his beloved river from his drawing



Jack Jones as a wartime lieutenant in the RNVR

board. As well as yacht design, he maintained a passionate interest in art and music, and at times controversial views. His interest in the arts manifested itself in his devotion to beauty of line in the great variety of vessels

construction. Among the larger sailing yachts to his designs still in active use are Corista, a 26 ton gaff cutter built in 1952 and now in Canadian waters, Sephine II, a Bermudian sloop of 27 tons built in 1966, and Celandine, a 15-ton gaff ketch launched in 1967. A number of distinctive motor-sailers and full powered craft also came from his board, including the well known Sole Bay class of motor-sailers. His popular Jaunty and Haven classes of weekend fishing launches contrasted sharply with his larger powered craft such as the 40 ton Fleur de Lys class built in the Sixties by Dapies of Wisbech, or Suncloud built in 1969 when his designing career was coming to an end.

Increasing pain from his Dieppe raid wounds and the decline in traditional methods of yacht building brought about by mass production of glass fibre plastic boats hastened his decision to retire from yacht designing. From his retirement home in Bromeswell, Suffolk, he continued his life interest in art and music, in spite of increasing disability which greatly restricted his activities.

Although Jones never achieved the heights of fame from designing spectacular short-lived racing yachts, his mastery will long be preserved in the many fine classic yachts he designed which are still to be found driving admiring glances and giving pleasure to their owners all over the world.

### GWEN NELSON

Gwen Nelson, actress, has died at the age of 89. She was born on June 30, 1901.

GWEN Nelson was working until recently and when not working was a regular first-nighter. Born in Muswell Hill, north London, she was musically talented and studied at the Guildhall School of Music and the Royal College of Music. However she turned to acting and in 1926 joined the Old Vic as assistant stage manager for the Shakespeare and opera companies. She also played small parts including a fairy in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. For her joint duties Lilian Baylis paid her 10 shillings a week. Her first chance to act in distinguished company (in small parts again) came in 1936 when she played at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

During the war she served with ENSA and in 1949 she was in the Cochran Revue *Tough As The Top* (Adelphi), and during the era of the small musical she played Joan in one of them, *Wild Thyme* by Philip Guard and Donald Swann at the Duke of York (1955). Two years later she played Aunt Paula to Peter O'Toole's Uncle Gustave in *Oh! My Papa*, a musical which transferred to the Garrick from the Bristol Old Vic.

She had three rewarding parts at the Royal Court. In

Arnold Wesker's *Roots* (1959) she was a Norfolk labourer's wife who could not stand the classical record her daughter Beatie (Joan Plowright) had brought from London, but was eventually persuaded to dance to it. In the same year she grew visibly plumper as the daily woman in N. F. Simpson's "farcical in a new dimension", *One Way Pendulum*. Her mistress offloaded on her the groceries she did not need but went on buying. Thus Gwen Nelson had to practice "incessant eating in a vocational capacity".

Her most challenging appearance at the Court came in 1965 when she played the Mum in Edward Bond's *Saved*, which achieved notoriety for the stoning of the baby scene. Other actresses had refused her part because it involved her near seduction by a young man who dined her stocking while she was still wearing it. She took it coolly.

Gwen Nelson seemed destined to wear uniforms and aprons on the stage. In Molnar's *The Wolf* (Apollo and Queens 1973) she was the Nanny. But she did play one up-market part as the Queen Mother no less in Royce Ryton's *Her Royal Highness* (Palace, 1981) in which she sailed in the right kind of hat. For her last part — in *Curtains* (Hampstead and the Whitehall, 1987-88) for which



its author, Stephen Bill won an award — she remained in a wheelchair. As she no longer wanted to live she urged her daughter to kill her. Perhaps this was too black a comedy for the West End where its run was short. Gwen Nelson appeared in several films. They included *A Kind of Loving*, *Dr Zhivago* and *84 Charing Cross Road*; she also appeared in several television series, among them *Sleptoe and Son*, *Juliet Bravo* and *The Bill*.

Dr Kenneth Grahame Wilkinson, CBE, aeronautical engineer and administrator, died on October 21 at the age of 73. He was born on July 14, 1917.

KENNETH Wilkinson gave outstanding service during the formative years of British European Airways and British Airways, and to Rolls Royce at Derby in the difficult years after its traumatic bankruptcy.

In 1971 he was president of the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1972-73. Wilkinson was educated at Shooter's Hill and at Imperial College, London, from where, in 1945, he joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough as a senior scientific officer. When BEA was formed in 1946 he joined the airline at Northolt as performance and analysis superintendent under Beverley Shenstone and then, as fleet planning manager, did much to gain the best out of BEA's new fleet of Ambassador and Viscount aircraft. When Shenstone became BOAC's technical director in 1964, Wilkinson succeeded him as chief engineer and was appointed to the BEA board in 1966. He was a skilled and enthusiastic glider pilot, becoming an active chairman of the British

## STEPHEN HAWTREY

Stephen Charles Hawtreay, CBE, former Clerk of the Journals of the House of Commons, died on October 9 after a long illness, aged 83. He was born on July 8, 1907.

STEPHEN Hawtreay's long service in the Clerk's Department of the House of Commons bridged very different political worlds from Ramsay MacDonald to Edward Heath.

He was also responsible for vetting the drafts of government motions which in the late 1960s were put forward for large numbers to implement widespread changes in procedure or provide a temporary way round existing rules. His painstaking approach and criticisms of slipshod drafts occasionally caused explosions of exasperation from government business managers, but they knew they could be confident that no procedural draft would be found with a draft marked "approved, S. C. H."

In 1950 he, together with several colleagues, was sent to serve the sessions of the Council of Europe at Strasbourg. He went again frequently between 1950 and 1964. He was a strong supporter of the European ideal and an ardent Francophile.

He threw himself enthusiastically into the work, seeking a tolerable compromise between the European and British approach to parliamentary procedure. He found Strasbourg very congenial. He could relax. Things were ordered differently in Europe. Precision, logic and consistency were no longer absolute essentials, punctuality no longer a virtue. There, over prolonged Strasbourg luncheons or dinners, he charmed his listeners with stories of rural France or the House of Commons before the war.

His wife Leda died in 1982. He leaves two sons and a daughter.

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Originals: Ann Muir, paper marbler

## Drawing on an old eastern art

ON THE threshold of her fiftieth birthday, Ann Muir pulled on her wellington boots and got down to the rather fluid business of establishing a workshop making multi-coloured, marble-effect paper. This entails the daily ritual of boiling carrageen, a seaweed also known as Irish moss. As an emulsifying and gelling agent, it forms the basis of the process.

Eighteen months later, her hand-marbled paper desk accessories are stocked by Fortnum & Mason in London and another of her designs is reproduced on a chain store's range of photograph albums. Mrs Muir had dabbled in a variety of jobs, including cookery, child care and chauffeur, but she "always loved anything to do with paper, paint and glue".

Eventually she came to be an outworker for a marbling company, sticking photograph frames together during evenings and weekends as her children grew up. "Then the person I worked for had an accident and, suddenly, I found I virtually had to run the company."

Mrs Muir in due course decided to apply her newly acquired business acumen to working for herself. Now craftsmen such as bookbinders seek out her work for endpapers, and to use on the covers of fine bindings. Her designs have also been displayed at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

At the workshop in Somerset, she produces a host of smaller items, including stationery boxes and bridge scorecard sets. She is also planning to take commissions for four-panel room screens. The heavily lacquered, durable, light-weight screens stand 5ft 6in high, and cost £250.

The same hand-marbling process is used to achieve a variety of effects for a wide range of items. The first step involves brewing the carrageen, which comes from France, Ireland and Canada, and which Mrs Muir obtains in pow-

der form in 50lb drums. The concoction must be left for 24 hours, before being poured into a tray over a light-box. Then water-based inks are dropped on to the surface, together with an expanding agent. Surface tensions stop the colours running into one another. "This way it's possible to get a good hard edge," she says. The multi-coloured sticks of paint — Mrs Muir seldom uses more than five colours to achieve seemingly unlimited effects — are then combed using a length of wood with "teeth" made from darning needles, and then with a single needle, used over the surface like a pen.

Good quality, porous paper sprayed with alum, a diluted salt crystal, is then laid face down on the surface of the size, and the pattern is immediately picked up. After being holed, dried and pressed the marbled paper is ready for use. The only additional treatment required might be a light beeswax polishing for frequently handled desk accessories.

Mrs Muir produces the delicate Turkish style of marbling known as Ebru, and the more familiar stone, antique spot, lettered sky, nonpareil and Stormont patterns.

Hand-marbled paper is said to have come originally from Persia, the technique travelling east to China and west across Europe. The artist Sydney Cockerell is credited with the more recent renaissance of hand-marbling.

Mrs Muir offers a matching service for restoration work and licences to print from her designs are also negotiable.

SANDY BISP

Ann Muir Marbling, 1 St. Mary's Lane, West Woodhatch, Frome, Somerset BA11 2LR (04553 780). Stocks of Mrs Muir's hand-marbled paper and products include Falkner Fine Papers, 76 Southampton Row, London WC1, and Husham Crafts, Stockbridge, Wiltshire, Wiltshire.



Nonpareil effect: Ann Muir makes the most of marbling techniques



A very special relationship: Detta O'Cathain, a business high flyer in London, and her husband, William, at their country home in Arundel

## Blend of the rainbow

Home from home: Detta O'Cathain

Detta O'Cathain, the managing director of the Barbican Arts Centre in London, says: "I dream in colour, and see music, nature and buildings in colour."

To her the Barbican — which Bernard Levin lambasted as "a gruesome labyrinth... a grim mediocrity..." — seems "a kaleidoscope of colours", and it became a rainbow of hope after her husband suffered a stroke a few months before she took up her appointment in October last year.

"I don't think I could live without this job now," she says. "I'd almost pay for the privilege. It shows that God is good: there's always some sort of compensation."

Miss O'Cathain (pronounced O'Coine) sees her flat within the concrete complex (reached without the aid of adequate signposts, which she agrees the £210,000 study just commissioned to make the place more "user-friendly" might discover are needed — as Mr Levin suggested) in shades of warm terracotta. Her weekend home in Arundel, west Sussex, is visualised in earthy browns and sunny yellows. She travels the 66 miles between them in "a very elegant, silvery grey Jaguar, which goes with whatever clothes I'm wearing."

"I have a complete change of identity in the country," says the former managing director of the Milk Marketing Board who ruffled quite a few feathers when she won one of the highest paid jobs in British arts administration without, ostensibly, an arts background. She has since confounded her critics, she feels, "and showed them that I'm not really the philistine business person some people thought."

"The first thing I do on a Friday night in the country is to throw off my city clothes and get into a tracksuit and trainers. That helps to separate Detta O'Cathain, managing director, from Mrs Bishop. I never look scruffy, of

course, but it used to be nice to be able to go to the pub on Saturday lunchtimes and be ordinary." This is said with some wistfulness: her husband, William, a retired executive with Aer Lingus who, at 75, is 23 years older than her (they met when she was an accounts clerk with the airline 24 years ago), is unable to get about without assistance, and cannot even say her name, let alone ask for a pint of beer. Weekend jaunts are out, as is the entertaining and tennis they used to enjoy at their former home, a converted oasthouse.

Their new country home, a "bourgeois chalet bungalow, but with a nice garden and fishpond", was bought to make it easier for her husband to negotiate with his wheelchair or walking tripod. It overlooks the sea, and Miss O'Cathain revels in her solitary strolls along the beach and riding her bicycle into the hills. In the city, she swims at dawn every weekday at the Barbican health centre to keep fit. She says: "Funny enough, Bill would have preferred this house even before he had his stroke. I was always the one for character houses, but he liked homes that were modern and practical, as neither of us is a DIY person."

She has learnt how to change an electric plug, but estimates that based on what she earns (reportedly £75,000 when she took up her post) "it costs me about £20 in time per plug". The flat in the Barbican, which, like the Jaguar, does not go with the job, she says, is decorated with traditional furniture that makes a contrast to the breathtaking views of St Paul's and the City of London from its vast picture windows. "I never close the curtains in the flat," she says, "and, surrounded by such a concrete jungle, the furnishings couldn't be chintzy or twee." Not, she adds, that she is a chintzy or twee type.

She says she felt duty bound to "live above the shop", but her kitchen in London is rarely used; she prefers to grab something from one of the Barbican catering services she has recently appointed. In the country she finds the time to make hazelnut ice-cream and meringues. "Life moves at a different pace there," she says. "When I began to lead my double life Bill and I made a bargain that I wouldn't bring work home at the weekends, and I have

pretty much stuck to it, although I used to work when he was watching television, and now I sometimes work after I have put him to bed."

Mr Bishop, once an active sportsman — a room in their homes has always been "totally dedicated to cricket" — shares her passion for music and used to play the organ in church. It makes her sad to think how her job could have given him so much pleasure.

During her days at the Milk Marketing Board she lived during the week in a flat that she has not yet been able to sell. "When I do, maybe I'll be able to complete fixing up the country house the way I'd like," she says. "We bought it complete with carpets and curtains, and maybe that was a mistake because there are acres of Berber carpets, which I despise but can't justify changing." She prefers the more traditional look of Osborne & Little print fabrics and throw-rugs, and is having an

adult 24, child 23. East Anglian endings: Last chance to visit the museum this year. All engines in steam including Burrell traction and ploughing engines and a portable steam engine, plus small rally, museum shop, with many Christmas items already on show, remains open until Christmas. Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket, Suffolk (0448 812229). Tomorrow, noon-5pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.30.

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Big night out: Torchlight procession with floats followed by bonfire and fireworks. Floats judged from 7.30pm. Procession from park corner, 8pm. Melford Hall, Long Melford, Sudbury, Suffolk. Fri. Adults £2, child £1.

**'I have a complete change of identity in the country'**

American patchwork quilt made for her bedroom.

Her stepdaughter calls the country house "the Tardis" — because it looks small from the outside but seems to go on forever inside. There is space to spread out, to accommodate Miss O'Cathain's collection of books on art, history, religion, the classics, Ireland and Sussex.

She has classified most of them in meticulous order. Once, when she had to return to London, leaving piles of books on the dining room floor, she later found that her husband, who does not have the use of his right hand, had managed to carry them into the study and put them on shelves. "It must have taken him about 60 trips, the nurse said." They were not classified in any way because her husband can no longer read.

Despite the distance between them over the past nine years since Miss O'Cathain began to work for the Milk Marketing Board, bought her flat, and began living what she calls her "double life", they have always been an exceptionally close couple. They used to telephone each other every morning at six o'clock when they were apart, "and when I drove home on a Friday evening I'd stop and phone to say 'I'm at the bottom of Bury Hill, put the kettle on,'" she recalls. "I used to feel the tension lifting from me as I approached the country, but now there's a different kind of tension; I need to find out how Bill is."

While Mr Bishop has improved significantly since last year, when his doctor advised her to take the Barbican job on the basis that "you can't have two lives ruined", he still requires almost constant looking after, and at weekends his wife takes over from the nurse. Always one to look on the bright side, she says: "When I see the sea from my garden and the dome of St Paul's from my flat, I think I have the best of both worlds."

VICTORIA MCKEE

Breeding

## Preying for a living

JEMIMA Parry-Jones grew up under the beady eyes of birds of prey: her father, Phillip Glasier, was falconer to the actor James Robertson Justice before establishing a falconry centre in the Sixties at Newent, near Gloucester.

When Mr Glasier retired, his daughter, now aged 41, and her husband, Joe, bought the centre and in just under ten years it has developed to become the National Centre for Birds of Prey. They have about 300 birds and have succeeded in breeding 38 species — "more than anywhere else in the world," Mr Parry-Jones says.

Falconry is becoming increasingly popular in Britain, where there are about 7,500 keepers of 15,000 birds of prey.

The Newent centre has birds ranging in size from the pygmy falcon, with a wingspan of 6in, to the bald eagle, which can measure 8ft from wingtip to wingtip. But while zoos around the world send endangered birds to Mrs Parry-Jones because of the centre's reputation for breeding in captivity, she admits to a lack of acknowledgment in one area: "Arabs can never really accept a woman falconer. If a woman is flying, they would either not watch or fall about laughing."

Nor do Arabs think much of the English falcon favourite, the peregrine. They prefer the saker.

By using artificial insemination, the Parry-Joneses have bred a



Ready eye: a martial eagle at the National Centre for Birds of Prey

hybrid which has a peregrine father and a saker mother. This, they say, performs brilliantly.

Peregrines are popular with most falconers and cost about £600 when they leave the centre at the age of 12 to 14 weeks after being fed on a very high protein diet, principally of chicken and quail. The birds are capable of stooping at up to 100 miles per hour and can live to the age of 20 in captivity, instead of the usual 12 to 15 years in the wild.

One breeding programme at Newent aimed at overall conservation is helping Britain's smallest falcon, the merlin, which is an endangered species as a result of habitat changes. Similarly threatened are the African bateleur eagles, which are also the subject of ecology research and study at the centre.

SB

Further information: the National Centre for Birds of Prey, Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1JL (0531 820286) and the British School of Falconry, Sterling Minis, near Canterbury, Kent CT4 6AQ (0222 787375).

### Country events

#### THIS WEEKEND

Steam threshing and ploughing weekend: A celebration of the end of the traditional farming year, with heavy horses and vintage tractors. Also working donkeys, steam-driven rack bench and crane saw, and demonstrations of hurdle and rug making, cider pressing and

other country crafts. Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, nr Chichester, West Sussex (024 363348) today, tomorrow, 11am-4pm, adult £2.80, child £1.25. Discovering Wales: Family walks in the company of museum staff to discover local flora, fauna, rocks, fossils and minerals. Carreg Cennen Castle car park, north of Swansea. Grid ref sheet 159/SN 667194. Today, 2pm.

Grandfather's harvest: Threshing drum and Tasker steam engine thresh sheaves of home-grown wheat, traditional cooking in the farmhouse kitchen, demonstrations of corn doily and bee-skep making, apple bobbing for children. Manor Farm Museum, Upper Hamble Country Park, Bursledon, Hampshire (04892 87055). Tomorrow, 10am-5.30pm. Adult £1.50, child £1, family ticket £4. Brimley, Melton, Vendy festival: Today, Zeffirelli's film of Otello with Placido Domingo, Aldeburgh cinema, 11am, tickets £3. Solo cello played by Alexander Baillie with music by Bach, Britten and Penderecki, Jubilee Hall, 3pm, tickets £3, £5.80. And tonight, 7.30pm at Snape Maltings, Mahler Four and Schubert's Unfinished Symphony with the LPO, tickets £5.50-£14.50. Tomorrow at 3pm and Mon at 6.30pm, also at Snape. Verdi's Falstaff with singers from the Britten-Pears School, 22.80-£3.80. Aldeburgh and Snape, Suffolk. Today, tomorrow, Monday. Box office 0728 453513.

Hallowe'en special: Apple bobbing, ghost trains, fancy dress and turnip lanterns. Embay Steam Railway, Embay, nr Skipton, North Yorkshire. Tomorrow, 11am-4.15pm. Adult £2, child £1.

Local history exhibitions: Last chance to see the comprehensive display of photographs of the local area over the past 100 years. East Hildesheim Hall, Bradford Road, Kington, West Yorkshire (0535 807075). Today, tomorrow, 2-5pm. Adult £1.80, child 90p.

Photographers' night: Special extended opening to provide photographic possibilities with two trains in steam plus a diesel railcar. Also train rides, demonstrations, competition and prizes for the best photographs taken. Outside barbecue and refreshment room. Didcot Railway Centre, Didcot, Oxfordshire (0235 817200). Today, 11am-8pm.

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### Dazzling



The Countess of Woolton in the November

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WHEN THE TIME COMES  
**THE TIMES**

JUDY FROSHAUG



# Renaissance man revisited

Colleen McCullough writes for pleasure but enjoys the profit.  
Penny Vincenzi meets Australia's richest self-made woman

When Colleen McCullough is 80, you will recognise her easily. "I plan to terrify everyone to death, smoking black cigars and sitting with my legs apart, wearing pink bloomers. It is not my intention to be a sweet old lady," she said.

As she revealed this she was smoking "the mildest cigarettes you can buy" and sitting quite decorously in a pair of baggy trousers under a baggy tunic. Ms McCullough is on the English leg of the publicity tour for her new novel, *The First Man in Rome*, the first of five chronicling the events leading to the fall of the Roman Republic.

*The First Man in Rome* is not (for anyone who might have feared or hoped for such a thing) much like *The Thorn Birds*, her most famous novel. Ms McCullough does not, like so many mega-selling writers, lay a series of identically shaped golden eggs to make life more easily profitable for herself and her publishers. This is an exhaustively researched work of what the Americans call fiction. Indeed, so thoroughly researched is it that the glossary alone runs to 100 pages.

The book is, at various stages, hard work, exciting, moving, sexy and extremely gory, and she wrote it, she said, because she wanted to write a historical novel and there was no other period in history that had not been done to death. "If I see one more book about King Arthur," she said, "I'll spew."

Writing has made Ms McCullough a great deal of money. In particular, writing *The Thorn Birds* has made her a great deal of money. "But when I made it, I vowed I would never let money rule me." Which would mean?

"Which would mean I started to write for money. And that would necessitate an endless run of *Road to Thorn Birds*, *Son of Thorn Birds*, *Thorn Birds Three*. And I wasn't going to do that. All my books have been totally different. And it would also mean taking the money seriously, which I cannot do. I have an agent who worries about it, but I don't."

Nevertheless, she is happy to have it. "I am one of Australia's richest women. All of the others have inherited their money, so I," she said, with a touch of justifiable pride, "am known as Australia's richest self-made woman." And what does it do for her, being so rich, having self-made all that money? "Not a lot," she said. "It doesn't make you any happier. And you get soaked all along the way, especially when you're on your own. If you buy

a piece of land, have something done to the house, it's going to cost you twice as much if you're rich.

"But it's nice. To have your own money is wonderful. I always wanted to make my own money. I vowed to myself before I left school I would never in my life put myself in a position where I had to ask a man for a penny. And I married at an age and financial status where I did not have to ask my husband for anything. I just wasn't going to let myself care for anybody to the extent where I would have to marry them, and ask for the money for a pound of butter."

She developed this near phobia in childhood, when her mother was perpetually having to ask her father for money. "He was so mean and grudging. It was a very unhappy marriage." He worked on the sugar cane plantations. "He never housed my mother, she lived with her own people on the stations and they moved around the bush from one to another. It was a very nomadic existence. And I was the only female in my family for generations. There was no feminine influence in our household whatsoever. My mother had nine brothers, my grandmother 15. And either you sat there dumb at the table, or you participated in the masculine conversation. I don't think I ever discovered feminine conversation."

She was, she said, a confident child. "I just don't know why. They were always trying to slap me down. I was altogether confident, socially as well. I went to a very posh school, but I never felt inferior to any of the other girls, even the ones from rich families. The posh school was a convent in Sydney, where she and her mother finally settled when she was 12. "I begged to go there, and she said, 'I can't afford it, so it's up to you'. I got a scholarship. I was always very ambitious. I just wanted to succeed at whatever I did, I didn't know what at."

This ambition did not extend to having children. "I always knew they would have retarded my career." Her one

clear ambition at this age was to be 6ft tall. "I wanted to look down on men. But I didn't make it."

She did make 5ft 10in, and is large with it. "But I do have a disciplined bottom. That was my nurse's training; all nurses are trained to walk very fast and purposefully and not wiggle their bottoms."

She nursed briefly, but was actually trained as a neurophysiologist at Yale, while she was there she wrote *Tim*, a novel about a handicapped young man, and then *The Thorn Birds*. This led to fame, fortune and a craving for privacy, and ultimately to Norfolk Island in the South Pacific, where she met and married, in 1984, Ric (full name Cedric, "and if you're going to be called Cedric, you'd better be 6ft 3in and 17 stone, which he is") Robinson.

He is a descendant of the Bounty mutineers, and is 13 years her junior. "But," she said, "actually he's much older than I am, a patriarchal

figure." They met while he was painting her house, but this was an interim occupation while he waited 14 years or so for his 30 acre crop of rare Kentia palms to reach maturity. "When that does happen, he'll out-rich me."

He also, she said, "out-strings" her. "He says, 'Hush your mouth, woman', and I shut up." (This is just a little hard to believe.) It was not love at first sight; two years elapsed between meeting and marriage. "I think that's the best way."

Now they live in Outyenna, a house and estate, on Norfolk Island — "it's like a small country, we support 25 families" — in somewhat oddball bliss. "I tuck him up every night at about nine or ten, and then I go to work." She works for ten, 12, sometimes 18 hours at a stretch. "Those are happy hours. I love it. I think all these writers who say they hate writing just want to make it appear more difficult. They think it sounds bad to say it's a

breeze." Was it a breeze for her? "Yes, sometimes it is. Sometimes it just goes. It's pure pleasure."

She is the very end of the line of her great, male dominated family. Her brother drowned 25 years ago. "It was frightful. Dreadful. The greatest grief I could ever face. We were best friends, only about 12 months apart, very attached to each other, more than to either parent. I came out the other end, but not without great difficulty. But that increased my confidence, that I could survive that."

So, here she is, at the age of 53, not quite at the black cigars and pink bloomer stage; successful, famous, seriously rich. She drew the illustrations for *The First Man in Rome* (which will be published on November 1 by Century, £14.99) and is writing the lyrics for a musical of *Tim*. Someone once called her a renaissance woman: "but I'm not. I'm renaissance man. Renaissance woman sat around doing embroidery and trying to please her man."

She is, she said, happy, hopeful, optimistic. What would she do if she lost all her money tomorrow? "Oh," she said, "I have a husband now. I would look to him." Isn't that cheating? "No it isn't," she said, "and I'll tell you something. He'd be as happy as a pig in shit to be the total breadwinner. But I don't think he'd subject me to asking him for the price of a pound of butter."

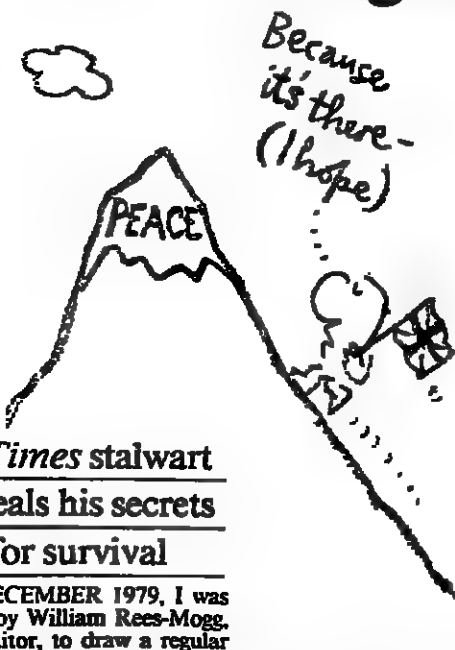
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Relishing the happy hours: Colleen McCullough sometimes works 18 hours at a stretch

# Chuffed, chuffed.

calman  
Drawn to laughter



A Times stalwart  
reveals his secrets  
for survival

IN DECEMBER 1979, I was hired by William Rees-Mogg, the Editor, to draw a regular front-page cartoon for this newspaper. He was too shy to ask me himself, so Louis Heren, the deputy editor, was the one who took me to lunch and popped the question. It remains the only time I have been given lunch by a newspaper editor.

When I joined *The Times*, it was very much like entering a men's club, terribly genteel. For a while, I went to the afternoon conferences, where the various heads of department sat in a semi-circle around Rees-Mogg, who occupied a large cane rocking chair and sipped China tea. Jokes were sometimes made — but they were usually either about old books or new cricketers.

I used to show my cartoon ideas to the deputy editor, who referred them to Rees-Mogg only when the jokes were controversial — that is, about the Royal Family and the Catholic Church. A cartoon like the one I did a year or so ago, where a little girl is saying, "When I grow up I want to be Pope", would have been impossible in Rees-Mogg's day.

I cannot draw for a vast body of unknown people called readers. I draw for the Editor or more often the back bench, the name given to the motley crew who make all the

editorial decisions on a newspaper. If they have any glimmer of humour, all is well. If then do not (that is, if they do not like what I do), all is lost. If the editor does not like a cartoon, I start again.

Before I begin drawing, I try to clarify my attitude to the subject: what is the general feeling out there? And if it is a long-running topic, how the devil can I find a fresh angle on it? Trying to be funny comes next. I'm not much good at being significant. I try to make a small pinprick in the portentous bubble of our leaders and their utterances.

I cannot imagine how I have survived this job for 11 years and five Editors. Mostly, I suspect, by keeping a low profile. It is a trick I learned in the army during national service, when I wanted to avoid extra guard duty. I come in each evening as quietly as possible, get the drawing done and accepted, and leave before anyone in authority can call me back to change it. I think I have not been fired simply because they forget I am there.

MEL CALMAN

© Merric England plc, a collection of Mel Calman's cartoons for *The Times*, is published on November 1 by Mandarin Paperbacks (£3.99).

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INTERCITY **Hertz**



ARRIVING by train at Dorchester, it is easy to imagine that the town has changed little since Thomas Hardy used it as the model for his fictional Casterbridge in the 1880s. On your right, as you emerge, is the Eldridge Pope brewery, an extravagant piece of 19th century Moorish Gothic; in front are the sheds and corrals of Dorchester's livestock market; and to your left, just beyond the signpost with its silhouetted figure that points "To Amphitheatre and Maiden Castle", is the police station, a four-square stone building set around a courtyard.

"Casterbridge was the complement of the rural life around, not its urban opposite," wrote Hardy. "Bees and butterflies in the cornfields at the top of the town, who desired to get to the meads at the bottom, took no circuitous course, but flew straight down High Street without any apparent consciousness that they were traversing strange latitudes." The top of the town is still not so very far from the bottom. But the bees and butterflies may be starting to suspect something, now that the town limits have been extended by a few hundred yards more along the avenue that leads out towards Weymouth.

For beyond the police station, beyond the graveyard with its two identical little grey chapels, and the two nursing homes placed strategically opposite, rises the steel skeleton of an emerging Tesco superstore. And beyond that is the Avenue Stadium, new 7,000 capacity home of Dorchester Town FC of the Beazer Homes League.

The site, which was originally occupied by both the football club and the local rugby club, is on Duchy of Cornwall-owned land, opposite the area earmarked for development by the long-debated Poundbury Farm proposal — the Prince of Wales's model village extension to Dorchester. Whether this influenced Tesco is not known, but the group was prepared to pay the duchy £6 million to develop the site on the edge of a town with a population of only 15,000. The duchy, apparently, became enthused by the project, and found another site for the rugby club to the west of the town. The football club's old ground was flattened to make way for Tesco, and the new stadium was completed in time for the start of this season.

A first impression, from Weymouth Avenue, is of a low, red-brick enclosure, something like a Roman fort, but with floodlights. Closer to, you can see that the end wall facing you, behind one of the goals, has an absurd blue triangle sitting above the central exit gate, a sort of jejune pediment. Round the corner, on the main facade, which is actually the back of the main stand, the eye is caught by more blue metalwork — columns forming a central portico that frames the entrance, and more columns supporting two subsidiary pediments or gables, on top of first-floor balconies.

These semi-classical

## Changing face Tough time for Hardy souls

elements are a distraction from the essence of the building, which is a well-made piece of vernacular architecture using, as far as possible, natural materials. The designer, Philip Dyke of architects the Lawry Partnership, has designed what looks, from the football field, like a traditional grandstand, with its pitched roof and steel supporting framework.

"You get the sense that something's holding it up," says Mr Dyke, comparing the stand to those of other contemporary football stadiums. He claims that the stadium was never thought of as a classical building. "OK, it's got some whimsical bits and pieces," he concedes, "but it hasn't got true classical intentions, by any means."

Why bother with the bits and

pieces at all, then? Could it be that Mr Dyke's initial thoughts were compromised by the need to win the Prince's approval? Not surprisingly, he is not saying — but if so, the compromise is at least a pretty cosmetic one. Painting the steelwork a more sober, more Victorian colour — dark green or rust — would be enough to tone down the unfortunate hint of the post-modern in the design. And there will always be the marvelously rich, red, hand-made facing bricks, alternating with reconstructed Portland stone, to give the building its real character, with the still-raw contrast between them softening with age.

The practice of doing land deals with supermarkets is now well-established in football, and is likely to become even more common as clubs attempt to accommodate the demands of the Taylor report, following the Hillsborough disaster. But the Avenue Stadium cost £3 million to develop, and it is unusual, to say the least, for a non-league club to be so well-favoured. The question is, could such a stadium ever have been built if the land had not belonged to the Duchy of Cornwall? "The duchy," Paul Baker, the club's commercial manager, says fondly, "that's just our good luck. There's not a sales brochure I put out that doesn't have the Prince of Wales's name on it."

CALLUM MURRAY



All eyes on the stand: Dorchester's swiftly-completed new football stadium

## Who's opening branches all over the city?

Liz Gill reports on  
rapidly improving  
relations between  
town-dwellers  
and their trees

Mark Johnston has known tree-planting sessions in cities where the children have tried to push the saplings into the ground branches first. "It seems very sad that a tree should be such an unknown quantity to them, but the good thing is that they will never make that mistake again. They have been involved."

Mr Johnston is the editor of the quarterly magazine, *Urban Forests*, and a campaigner for greener cities and a closer link between town dwellers and their trees.

Urban trees arouse strong passions. When a chestnut tree was threatened in Islington recently, protestors kept a round-the-clock vigil in its branches until a compromise solution could be found. The problem is that one citizen's inspiration may be another citizen's blocked light or drain. Bill Matthews, the managing director of Southern Tree Surgeons, has known people prune, sometimes fell, a nuisance tree while its owner was away on holiday. "I have even known people try to poison a neighbour's tree. Root trespass is a big thing. You are responsible for your trees. You have to exercise the discretion of a prudent landlord. If you do not, and something happens, you may be held negligent."

Mr Matthews, who holds a royal warrant, has tales about willows that would make any householder weep: how their "very enterprising" roots can fill drains to the point where the tangled mass has to be pulled out with a winch; how they can suck the water out of the soil "like a sponge", eventually causing earth movement and disturbed foundations. He has similar horror stories about other species: beeches are shallow rooted and easily toppled, horse chestnuts can rot and break and their leaves turn a suburban street into a skid pan; poplars can extend their roots one and a half times their height.

He is in no way anti-tree; indeed, his idea of a good time is to go round a housing estate on a Sunday afternoon firing too-tight ties with his pocket knife. But he does believe a lot of harm is done by planting the wrong tree in the wrong place.

"You can't put large forest trees such as planes and limes into confined spaces like back gardens and narrow streets. They are misfits. Local authorities are getting better, but individuals still do daft things," Mr Matthews says.

Mr Johnston feels that a lot of local authorities are quite good at helping communities to decide what trees they want and where they should go. "Instead of some stuffy ceremony, you have a planting party with food and music. Later on, maybe you get the local people to help loosen the ties and check the stakes," he says. "Putting your imprint on the landscape in this way means a lot



That old chestnut: residents of Islington in north London trying to defend a condemned tree this summer

more to the tower-block dweller than if the council just comes along with a 'we know best' attitude and whacks something in. A lot of negative attitudes and vandalism in cities stems from ignorance."

Interest in the urban tree has grown enormously in the past five years, says Peter Gerosa, the secretary of the Tree Council. "A few years ago, getting any sponsorship at all was a hard grind. Now commercial concerns are ringing up and saying: 'We want to spend x amount on trees, what do we do?'" Akzo Chemicals, he says, is sponsoring National Tree Week next month, and British Gas has pledged £25,000 a year for three years to develop the tree warden scheme, which has 700 volunteers across the country.

Mr Gerosa says there is a growing concern for environmental issues, particularly the greenhouse effect. "The growth of emissions is at the heart of the greenhouse effect, and trees cut down the fumes by absorbing and fixing carbon dioxide and giving off oxygen. They also encourage wildlife, and are beautiful."

Derek Lovejoy, the professor of landscape architecture at Sheffield university, says trees are great value for money. "Their costs are a fraction of those of any construc-

tion, they give shade and visual pleasure, and they humanise our bricks and mortar. But if they die, it is money down the drain."

Professor Lovejoy believes there are technical solutions to many of the problems associated with the urban tree. The Japanese, he says, have had the most successful urban tree planting programme — "they turned concrete jungles into green oases in a decade". Mature trees, 30ft to 40ft tall, have been established in city centres without damaging the services — "for instance you can put the roots in spun concrete pipes so they go straight down".

Britain plants about 15 million amenity, as opposed to forestry, trees a year — 660,000 were put in during National Tree Week last year — and there is growing interest in the idea of the city tree as a source of revenue. Northern Planners, an environmental consultancy in Edinburgh, has just produced a study for the council to show that by the use of an existing saw mill the city's timber could be worth £150,000 a year.

The cost of a tree ranges from a few pence for a forestry transplant to perhaps £3,000 for a mature 30-footer. Getting the right type for that particular site remains cru-

cial. British Standards has guidelines about planting in relation to property, says Mr Johnston, "so there is no need to make mistakes". He is rather fond of rowans, birches and maples for townscapes, but detests "all those shocking pink flowering cherries". Mr Gerosa and Professor Lovejoy both cite the small-leaved gleditsia and robinia as ideal, and Professor Lovejoy confesses to a fondness for the London plane — "they seem the epitome of the city, though they do bother me during the hay fever season. The big thing is not to be too dependent on any one species."

Mr Matthews, who has seen fashions in trees come and go, leaving a legacy of monkey puzzles, sequoias and Indian beams, points out that you can get columnar versions or weeping versions of most species. A warmer climate and cleaner air may also mean a wider choice.

He would not want to see all urban trees neat and small, however. "When you have got the space, in a park or some other open land, then you should plant something really big that children can climb on and adults sit beneath. We do not want to get to the stage where if you climbed a step ladder you could see over the heads of all the trees in town."

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A monster party: dinosaur at the Natural History Museum

### Events in town

#### THIS WEEKEND

● **Fact and fiction:** Monsters, myths and legends under scrutiny this weekend include a talk, today 2pm, with natural historian Joyce Pope, about mythical creatures in cultural history. Tomorrow, face-painting sessions on the same theme, 1-4.30pm.  
● **Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (071-938 9389).** Today, tomorrow.  
● **Hell term at the Imperial War Museum:** Special events to mark the Anglo-American relationship in the second world war include two films — *A Matter of Life and Death* starring David Niven, today 3pm; *Yanks with Richard Gere*, tomorrow, 3pm. US Field Army Band plays music of Glenn Miller, today, tomorrow from 1pm. American food in the cafe.  
● **Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 (071-418 5000).** Today, tomorrow, adult £3, child £1.50.  
● **Follow the thread:** Biennial exhibition by members of the Association of Quilters of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. Many items for sale. Every weekend throughout the exhibition, an opportunity to try out weaving, braiding and spinning.  
● **Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 (0151-207 0001).** Today until Dec.

#### NEXT WEEK

● **Kent Literature festival:** Numerous talks, readings, discussions, workshops and children's events — most based in Folkestone, Deal, Lympne and Lydd. Literary celebrities attending include Frank Muir, John Mortimer, P.D. James, A.S. Byatt and Gieve Barker.  
● **The Metropolitan Arts Centre, The Leas, Folkestone and other venues in Kent.** Mon-Sun. Full programme from festival box office (0303 55070).  
● **The Money Show:** Financial companies on hand to give advice to private investors, businessmen and women and anyone interested in managing their money to good effect.  
● **Olympia, London W14.** Thurs 11am-6pm; Fri, Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 10am-5pm. Adult £5, child £2.50.  
● **National Chrysanthemum Society Show:** Specialist flower show for all who grow and love these flowers including old, favourites, new plants, competition and specialist producers.  
● **RHS Halls, Vincent Square and Greycoat Street, London SW1.** Fri 1-6pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Fri £2.50, Sat £1.50, accompanied child free.

JUDY FROSHAUG

شركة من الأعمال



*Help: Bermans, costumiers*

# The witch and the wardrobe



NICOLE SWENGLEY

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**Art robberies are increasing; people are being hurt. Whose job is it — government or private sector — to stem the tide?**

He asks why the government is ignoring the problem. "There has been more interest from the FBI than the Home Office."

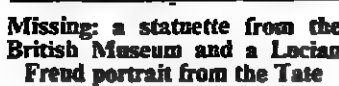
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**Fatalistic humour or petty vandalism?: bronze reliefs on the Rathbone monument were crowbarred off**

All being well, the 75 delegates at the conference will return to their hunting grounds with a list of new contacts, forming a formidable network. They also desperately need an effective international computer register into which they can speedily tune. It is our hope the battle between e-mail and Usenet, which already has a

the long-awaited Trade Liaison Unit, managed by Hogg Robinson, is resolved. The new policy by the Home Office should begin, with a view to prosecuting more damage Act

● The National Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum said they were "clean" of thefts, the V&A having forgotten that a £30,000 collection of silver was reported missing two years ago.



There are signs that the international impasse over rights of title to stolen art might soon be resolved. As things stand, the Louvre Museum in Paris turns up in any "common" law country (such as Britain, most Commonwealth countries and the US), the Louvre will be able to recover it, because right of title remains with the original owner. If it is found in a country where the law is codified (France and Japan), title could pass to a new buyer.

Last month the Unidroit Convention, which tries to harmonise private law within states, submitted a draft on the matter to the 53 signatory countries, and, if feedback is favourable, there will be a diplomatic conference next spring. Proposals include adjusting the civil law to match the "common" law, but compensating victims.

As the fray approaches, and works by artists such as


**Pine mine:** A Victorian Gothic painted pine bookcase defied its estimate of £3,000 to £5,000 at Bonhams, selling for £28,000.

**Preview**  
Sunday: Collectable pasties galore at the ninth international Scientific & Medical Instrument Fair. (Portman Hotel, London W1; informa-

quality controlled. In 1983, Mrs Silver could take her pick

“I don't think they mean to be, but the CAS are incredible competition to us galleries,” says Anne Berthoud, a dealer. A fellow dealer Vanessa Devereux adds: “The message on

his doctor is still using his wooden stethoscope..



calman

● Sotheby's, New Bond Street, (071-493 8080); Christie's King Street, St James (071-339 9060); Christie's South Kensington (071-581 7611), Phillips, 101 New Bond Street (071-639 6602) Bonhams, Monpelier Street, London SW7 (071-584 9161).

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


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BARANCA, Nabucco CHORUS OF THE HEBREW  
SLAVES, Humando NESSUN DORMA, The Valseyrie RIDE  
OF THE WIND, The Song of the Lark, Delish SOFTLY  
AWAKES MY HEART, Pachelbel ROMANCE ON THE  
THE MOTLEY, El Tovarito STRIDE LA VAMP, AVE  
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6.25 **Blind Date.** Watch and cringe as *Cite Back* plays Cagney to mere romantic hopelessly. (Oracle)

7.25 **Beastie's** Of course, Jeremy Beadle, he of the unfortunate sense of humour, humiliates another selection of seemingly unconcerned members of the public

7.55 **Say Lucky: Trial by Marriage.** Easy-going comedy drains with Dennis Waterman as the cheeky country in love with Jani's sister's icy northern business woman. (Oracle)

9.00 **News with Sue Green.** Sport and weather. 9.15 **LWT Weather.**

9.20 **Film: Spies Like Us (1985).** Two bumbling bureaucrats are mistakenly chosen for a spy mission. Predictable chaos ensues in this disappointing comedy that should have been funnier considering the casting. Stars Chevy Chase, Dan Aykroyd and Steve Forrest. Directed by John Malone. (Oracle)

11.15 **Desperado: Badlands Justice.** Continuing Western drama. Duel pins on a sheriff's badge to find the killers of a young girl's parents. Starring Alex McArthur

1.00 **The MTV Video Music Awards.** Arsenio Hall and Kim Basinger host the 1990 awards from the Universal Amphitheatre, Los Angeles

1.55 **The Time Turner: Death Trap.** Golden old-time-travelling adventure. Doug and Tony are suspected of plotting to assassinate Lincoln before the outbreak of the civil war (r)

2.55 **American College Football.** Gridiron action as Auburn takes on Florida State

4.00 **The Hit Man and Her.** Disco clubbing with Michaela Strachan and Pats Waterman

5.00 **ITV Morning News.** Ends at 8.00

odyssey, which takes in not only the South American cowboys (the gauchos) to whom vestiges of the old romanticism still cling, but an English-style polo club, an aristocratic Indian family, and a topazium-obsessed shoppers' world where meat costs less than greens, and it is cheaper to buy a bottle of wine than a bottle of Coke. Next week, Vernon is in Patagonia with the Welsh riders, and it is again a film. (Teletext)

**8.00 LA Law: The House of the Rising Fire.** In tonight's episode Kuzak has to represent a child in a personal injury suit, a task made more difficult when his clients that the child's father has concealed facts about his stepson's medical history (r)

**9.00 Channel 4 Racing International** from Belmont Park: The Breeders' Cup, introduced by Groucho Scott. (P)

**1.00 The Bill: The Last Days of Pompeii.** Finnish made-for-television movie starring Eklof. Huldén as an ex-writer who, although branded a left-wit and hidden away in an institution, is determined to regain his physical and mental fitness and obtain for his wife, who is related with one of the other inmates (Eska Peterson) brings about an emotional re-awakening and sense of freedom for both of them. English subtitles. Directed by Matti Järvi

**2.40am Soapies: Remembrance When the Lights Went Out.** A mystery drama. Tim Reid and Daphne Maxwell Reid. A reunion from the Sorbes becomes a setting for a possible murder

**1.40 The Story of the Bee Gees.** A musical history including new performance footage, interviews, tracing the pop stars' progress from early teens to Seventies super-group. Ends at 2.30

[illegible]

6.00 world's leading solar  
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5:00 **Largely Waters:** John Waters  
tends the wit and wisdom to  
strut from around the world  
country, this week tackling the  
subject of animals  
5:25 **Week Ending:** Statistical view  
of the week's news (11:55)  
Shopping Forecast 5:55  
Weather  
6:00 **News:** Sports Round-Up  
6:25 **Citizens:** Omnibus around (s)  
7:25 **Stop the Week (s)**  
8:45 **Personal Service:** The Foray  
Chronicles. Fifth of a 23-part  
adaptation of John  
Galsworthy's saga, narrated  
by Dick Bogarde  
8:45 **Tough Cookies:** Jeremy Cuts  
talks to Stanley McLean who  
laced the fact that she was a  
victim of elder marriage and the  
parent of two children (9:1)  
9:10 **News in Mirror:** The

(new sweep):  
 • **CHUCK:** All the signposts of Irish Timeswood country—north or south, canny and gritty and poetic emblems of the unique skill as radio comedy writer. With no surprise there, I discover that the B&B folks are using disgusting table habits, venturing away at the bus stop on his big long-handled rusty gardening knife, that the dentures click while the dominos click in the local pub, and that the barmaids "show gossip and clean-up" away at the bar counter. And we marvel yet again at how effortlessly Timeswood changes up (or down) from their charmless gear to the elevated gear that is just as fun as the first when he describes the kitchen while

about the English civil war,  
starring Joss Ackland (8)  
12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20  
Weather, 12.33 Shipping  
Forecast

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased by 100 million. The number of people who are illiterate in the world is 1 billion. The number of people who are illiterate in the world is 1 billion.







# Union leaders at odds over 'responsible' wage policy

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TRADE union leaders clashed sharply yesterday over the TUC's offer to the government and employers to bargain responsibly over pay.

Employers welcomed the TUC's statement, made in a confidential policy paper submitted for next week's meeting of the National Economic Development Council, comprising representatives of the government, employers and unions. Some unions insisted that the statements in the TUC's paper did not amount to an offer of pay responsibility, and especially that they did not mean an agreement on wage restraint.

The crucial clause in the private document refers to the likely employment costs that could flow from Britain's entry into the EC's Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM), and then says: "The trade union movement is willing to accept its responsibilities to avoid such costs, provided others are willing to respond in kind."

Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said: "The TUC is not in the business of offering wage restraint." However, he added that the TUC was ready at the economic development council to discuss pay alongside investment, productivity, training, inflation and living standards.

The strongest support for the TUC's paper came from John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union. He said the statement was "more forthright than the TUC has been in modern times... it will be very interesting to see how the government reacts to this bold offer."

Government ministers would not comment on that yesterday, but, while it is understood that in general terms they welcome responsible wage bargaining by trade unions, they are not in favour of any consensual, tripartite wage-setting by government, employers and unions. They see that as both a return to the 1970s and as unworkable.

The employment department said that Michael Howard, the employment secretary, who will chair next week's council meeting, was willing to listen to what the unions had to say. Privately, ministers largely agreed with

Gavin Laird, general secretary of the AEU engineering union, who said the unions would be unable to deliver pay responsibility. Bill Jordan, the AEU president, who will present the TUC document at the council meeting, also insisted that the TUC was not interested in wage restraint. "It's not unimportant but it is not central to our argument that in the area of pay stability the TUC will play its part," he said.

Bill Morris, deputy general secretary of the TGWU transport union, which is pursuing inflation-plus pay deals, said: "The TUC could not deliver a rigid pay norm because trade union members would not accept it."

John Banham, director-general of the CBI, said jobs would go unless there was responsibility over pay. The CBI said it welcomed any recognition, particularly after Britain's entry into ERM, of the need to bring UK wage costs at least into line with those of Britain's EC competitors.

Conservative MPs reacted with a mixture of scepticism and surprise to the news that the TUC is to act "responsibly" over pay. Sir William Clark, MP for Croydon South, said there was now far more realism among the trade union leadership.

Union reaction, page 2  
Leading article, page 13



Helping with enquiries: Derek Hatton, left, is escorted by a detective after being arrested at his home in Wavertree, Liverpool, yesterday

## Hatton one of 22 held in land deal raids

Continued from page 1

Kinnock was leading the party. He won a seat on Liverpool city council in 1979 and when Labour took control four years later, he became the public face of the authority. He was behind a massive council house-building programme and a refusal to cut jobs or services in spite of cash shortages.

In 1985, Mr Kinnock denounced Mr Hatton and his fellow councillors at the party conference in Bournemouth when he spoke of the "prostate chaos of a Labour council hiring taxis to shuttle around a city handing out redundancy notices to its own workers". A year later, Mr Hatton and other councillors were expelled from the party in a militant purge. He and 46 other Labour councillors were also suspended and suspended from office for five years for failing to set a legal rate.

The following March, they lost their appeal and Mr Hatton turned his attention to setting up his public relations consultancy. Since then he has maintained his high profile with his sharp suits and BMW with the personalised number plate DEGSY. He charges £500 for after-dinner speeches, has hosted a local radio chat show, and was recently paid a reported £50,000 to portray a tycoon using his Rolls-Royce to go shopping in Bond Street as part of a Christmas advertising campaign for Sekonda watches.

Opening a £500,000 golf range in which he has a one-third stake, Mr Hatton, who is married with four children, said recently: "I'm a beginner at golf. It's like the shaving advert - I liked the game so much I bought a driving range."

## Kuwait reduced to a port town

Continued from page 1

August 2 had initially been widely interpreted abroad as a sign that President Saddam Hussein was intending one day to withdraw from the country once it had been stripped of its wealth. But observers who regularly monitor the actions of the Iraqi occupation forces now believe quite the opposite is true.

"They are trying to turn Kuwait into what it would have been if it had always been Iraqi," one senior diplomat said. "They did not loot it because they plan to withdraw. They have no intention of withdrawing. Instead they want to

turn it into a secondary provincial place, like the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, which has oilfields but little wealth."

Another Western diplomat said: "The Iraqis believe that Kuwait is a seaside town with a few oilfields and a port. It does not need ministries, skyscrapers, five-star hotels and ringroads."

Foreigners who arrived in Baghdad this week confirmed that, although schools, banks and shops were open and that a semblance of normality was returning to the emirate, the limited services are clearly intended to cater for a much reduced population.

Wendy St George, aged 30, a British beautician who arrived in Baghdad from Kuwait this week, said: "There is food in Kuwait but it is in very short supply and if you want bread you have to queue from four in the afternoon to half past nine at night."

Hundreds of thousands of expatriates, from unskilled Asian manual workers to Western company directors, have fled from the country in the past three months and there are suspicions that Iraqi and Palestinian families loyal to President Saddam will be used in future to colonise the new province.

## Ruling likely on disaster law

By LAW JENKINS

THE Court of Appeal is likely to be asked to give a ruling on an aspect of the Zeebrugge manslaughter trial that could have wide implications for future legal actions arising out of disasters.

Prosecuting counsel in the trial have been asked by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, to study the judge's grounds for telling the jury to acquit five of those accused, to see whether his actions were justified in law. The point under examination, likely to be referred to the Court of Appeal, is whether Mr Justice Turner was

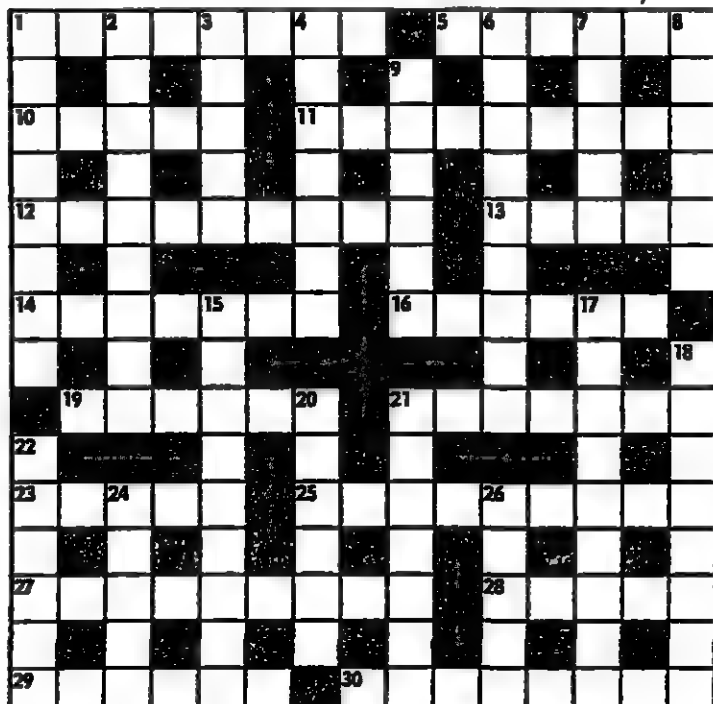
right in his direction that the evidence presented at the Central Criminal Court was such that the jury should not be invited to conclude that there was an "obvious risk" that the Herald of Free Enterprise would sail with her bows doors open and capsize.

Any decision by the appeal court would not affect the acquittal of those involved, but would clarify the law on manslaughter and go some way towards justifying the original decision to prosecute. The collapse of the case against seven employees of P&O

European Ferries (Dover) Limited, and the company itself, last Friday, led to calls for changes in the law whereby some form of corporate responsibility would be established.

The Crown had tried to establish an "obvious and serious" risk of the ferry sailing with open doors, but failed when defence counsel argued that, if the officers and masters called as expert witnesses had not seen an obvious risk, there was no evidence on which to leave the question of "obviousness" to the jury.

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,436



ACROSS

- 1 Mug presented at christening? (4,4)
- 5 Rhyming slang for plutocrat (3,3)
- 10 Counted sweetheart - still in danger, apparently (5)
- 11 Computer picture of mother? (9)
- 12 Ordered old soldiers in to secure foothold (9)
- 13 Excellent provincial force suffering setback in court (5)
- 14 Test inconclusive legal argument to case (7)
- 16 After initial move, your opening becomes devious (6)
- 19 Source of sweetness and light? Just the opposite (6)
- 21 Church leader's quiet about dispute (7)
- 23 As family man, he's prepared to take the pledge (5)
- 25 Piece of music to sing with the Head of Elton? (9)
- 27 Political leader willing to attack with missiles (9)
- 28 I struggled with persistent chamber (5)
- 29 City repaired at last (6)

Solution to Puzzle No 18,430

BATHOMETER KIWI  
A E P N L N N N  
L O A T H D O T R I C E P S  
R O U G H C A S T T O T A L  
E P A T I S T A R T I S T  
O P A L S T E P D A N C E  
B U M B A I N  
M A L I N I S M U N C U T  
W O M O I O  
A T T I C R E G U L A T O R  
S U O A K D I O  
T A L I P E S P I C A R P  
E S E T R I N N E  
R O A M C O A S T G U A R D

Solution to Puzzle No 18,435

MAD HATTER MOIST  
A U N E E A N E  
R E P L I C A P O L I V A R  
C E S P A T I S  
H A S T E A R T I C H O K E  
H A T T E R E S L I  
A P O S T A T E G I A R D  
R N N E P D G I A R D  
B A T S B A R O N E S S  
H I J A R A C  
G R E E N B E L T M I S E R  
R S F T D I O R A  
O M I N O U S S Q U A L I  
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Name/Address.....

### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?  
By Philip Howard

- LEMNISCATE**  
a. A snail's trail  
b. A closed curve  
c. An ice-dancing skate
- SOBOLE**  
a. The main tree trunk  
b. To suborn  
c. An underground stem
- PRANNET**  
a. A fool  
b. A card game  
c. A young prawn
- OLN**  
a. A ditching spade  
b. A medieval kermit  
c. A salamander

Answers on page 15

### TIMES WEATHERCALL

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Shropshire, Hereford & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N Wales & Dees	716
N E England	717
Cumbria & Lake District	718
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin & Fife/Lithuan & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Greenwich, Orkney & Shetland	726
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London (within N & S Circs)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads M23-M4	734
M25 London Orbital only	735

National traffic and roadworks  
National motorways 737  
West Country 738  
Wales 739  
Midlands 740  
East Angles 741  
North-west England 742  
North-east England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

Concise crossword, page 15

### WEATHER

Bright spells and showers in much of England, Wales and southwest Scotland, with showers more frequent along the south and west coasts. Possible thunder. More cloud and rain will spread into the South-West in the afternoon, reaching most parts of the country by midnight. Northeast Scotland will have a cloudy day, with rain. Outlook: more rain or showers likely over most parts, and becoming very windy.

#### ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	21/20	SE	20/80	
Algeria	23/23	SE	20/80	
Algeria	25/27	SE	20/80	
Algeria	25/27	SE	20/80	
Algeria	25/27	SE	20/80	
Algeria	25/27	SE	20/80	
Algeria	25/27	SE	20/80	
Algeria	25/27	SE	20/80	
Algeria	25/27	SE	20/80	
Algeria	25/27	SE	20/80	

#### AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	

#### LIGHTING-UP TIME

Area	Time
London	5.44 pm to 6.47 am
Bristol	5.53 pm to 6.56 am
Edinburgh	5.44 pm to 7.11 am
Manchester	5.41 pm to 7.00 am
Penzance	6.08 pm to 7.05 am

#### HIGH TIDES

Area	Time
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22

#### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Area	Time
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22
London	12.22

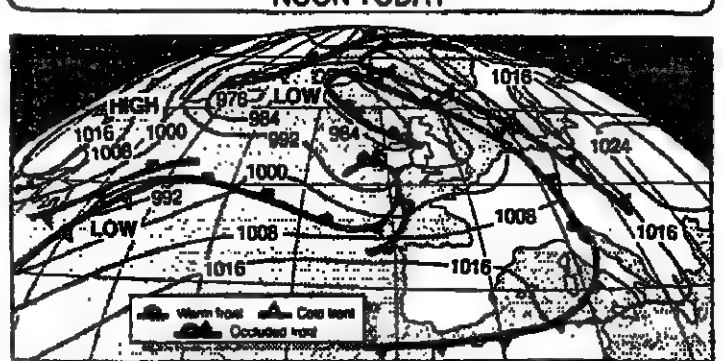
#### MANCHESTER

Area	Time
London	12.22
London	12.22
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London	12.22

#### GLASGOW

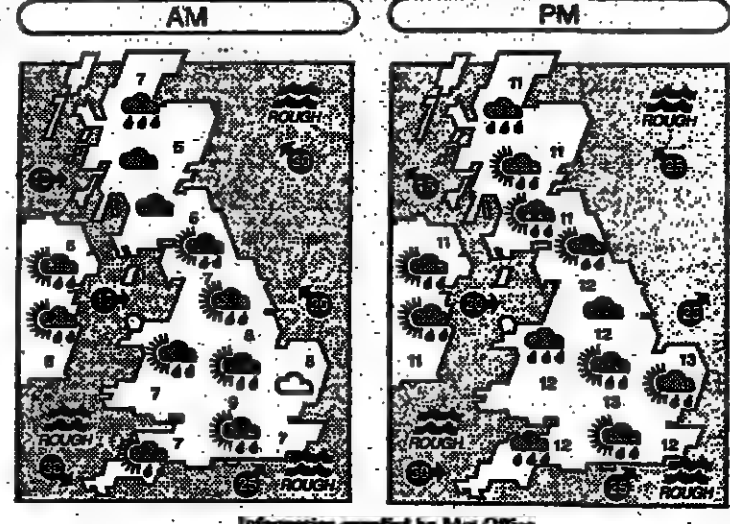
Area	Time
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London	12.22

#### NOON TODAY



Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	
London	15/13	SE	50/80	

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£10,000	£80.00	£120.00	£157.28	£157.28
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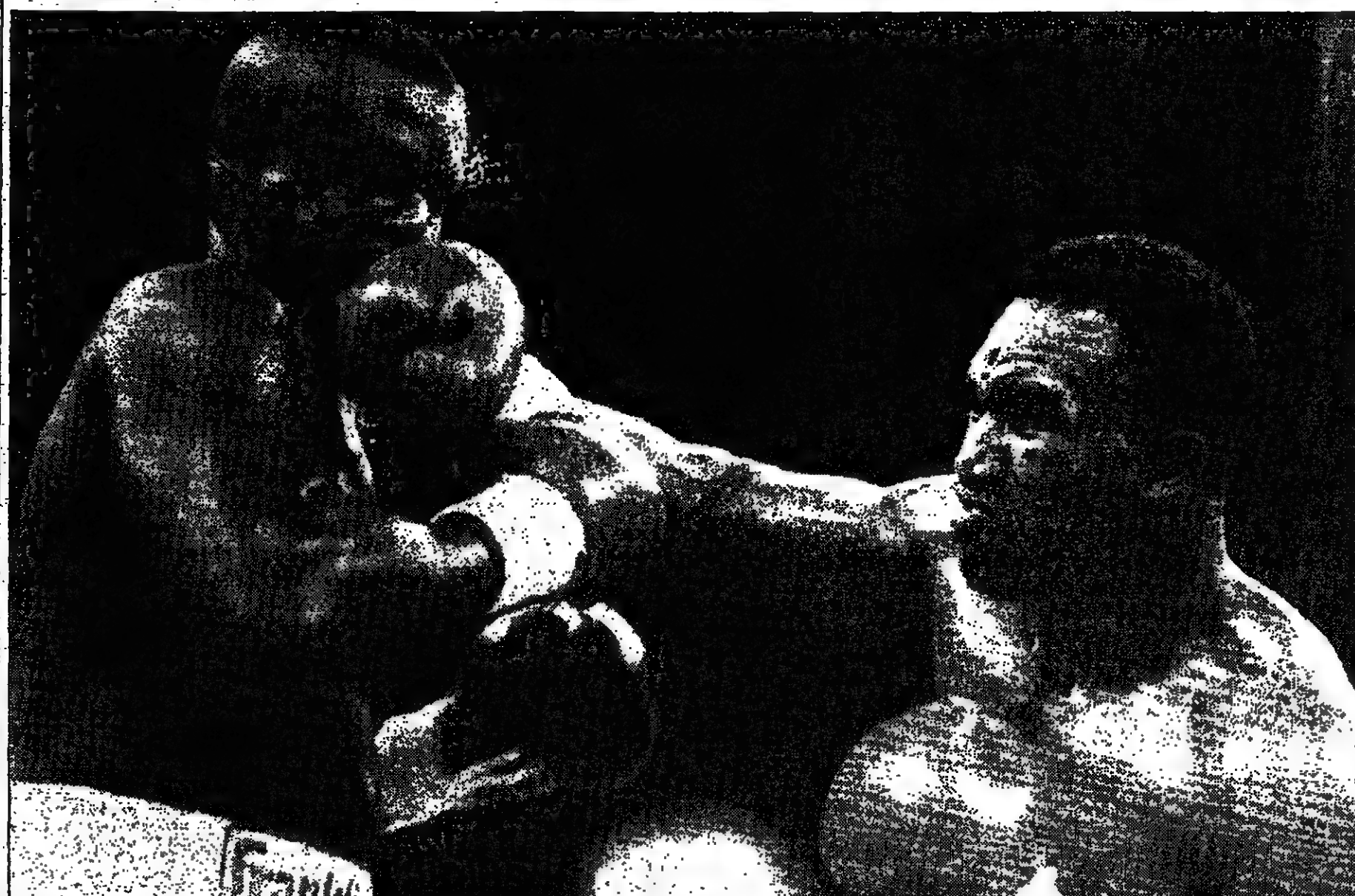


SPORT 27-33  
RACING 32-33  
BUSINESS AND FINANCE 34-39  
SPORT 40-46

SATURDAY OCTOBER 27 1990

## SPORT

## Holyfield snatches the title from a sleeping champion



The right that toppled the champion: Douglas takes a blow flush on the face from Holyfield, who followed up with a left to finish the contest in the third round

FROM SRISKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT  
LAS VEGAS

JAMES "Buster" Douglas, of Columbus, who eight months ago became the undisputed world heavyweight boxing champion with a breathtaking display against Mike Tyson, astonished us again yesterday. He lost the title to Evander Holyfield with one of the worst performances seen from a champion in that division.

Douglas was knocked out in the third round before a capacity crowd of 16,100 at the Mirage Hotel here. In those seven minutes and ten seconds of action, Douglas landed one blow, a clumsy right hand in the final round. He was too busy looking for an escape route to stay long enough in one place to land a discouraging blow on the advancing challenger who, at 208lb, was 38lb lighter.

Flushed with his one success, Douglas threw a right uppercut from what he thought was a safe distance, forgetting that an uppercut from out of range is dangerous to the thrower. He lost his balance and Holyfield, always within striking range, dropped his short right on Douglas's chin. "I saw him step in and he lowered his shoulder and I caught him with the right," Holyfield said.

Douglas fell sideways to the floor, rolled on to his back, lifted his head, wiped his forehead with his right glove and lay back again while Mills Lane, the referee, started counting. He closed sleepless eyes as if Lane was counting sheep. Later, Lane was to say: "He could have got up."

It was the type of performance that in England might have made

the boxing board withhold Douglas's purse pending an inquiry, but here, where "due process" dictates, Douglas went home with his \$24 million (about £12.3 million), the highest fee paid to a sportsman.

Holyfield, who was only the second world light-heavyweight champion to win the heavyweight title — Michael Spinks was the first — was left with \$8 million and what could be seen in days to come as a hollow victory.

Even though he boxed well, continuously getting past the 5½in reach advantage of Douglas, Holyfield's performance is in danger of being devalued. His critics will say Douglas was grossly overweight and did not train properly.

Two of the three world bodies that ordered the winner of the bout to defend against Mike Tyson within 120 days have changed their minds. Robert Lee, of the International Boxing Federation, said that so long as Holyfield meets Tyson within a year, he would be allowed to make a voluntary defence against George

## THE CHAMPION

Born: Almore, Alabama, Oct 19 1962.  
Amateur career: 1984 Olympic light-heavyweight bronze medal-winner.

Professional career: 1986 WBA light-heavyweight champion and IBF cruiserweight champion; 1988 WBC cruiserweight champion; 1989 WBC Continental Americas heavyweight champion; 1990 undisputed heavyweight champion of the world.

Professional record: 25 wins (21 knock-outs), 0 defeats.  
Status: Married, to Paulette, with four children.

Foreman Jimmy Binn, of the World Boxing Association, said the WBA would be happy to receive a request from Holyfield to meet Foreman. He gave the champion a four-month extension beyond February 25.

So inept was Douglas's performance that ringers were still shaking their heads long after the loser had gone to his hotel room to count his money. Eddie Futch, the trainer, who used to be in Joe Frazier's corner, was flabbergasted.

He had tipped Douglas before the weigh-in. He castigated him. "I thought 'Buster' Douglas was disgraceful. For a heavyweight champion to come in in that condition was outlandish. By today he was perhaps even 250lb."

Futch also thought Douglas was having a lie-in. "He could have got up. When he went down he brushed a glove across his eyes as though he was trying to see if there was any blood. I thought from that that he could have got up. He treated the greatest prize in the sporting world with disdain. It was outrageous."

From the moment Holyfield caught Douglas with a jab and a right seconds after the first bell, Douglas did not want to know. The right sent him sideways. He threw up his right hand as if telling a bus to stop at his Request Stop. Had a bus come along, he would have jumped on it.

Douglas started snatching at those jobs that had taken care of Tyson for ten rounds. He wanted to be in and away. When Holyfield

beated him round the stomach, he closed his eyes and backed off, bent double.

Until the uppercut that he essayed in the third round, Douglas's only punch was the jab, thrown from a safe distance and so well short of the target. It was hardly the repertoire of a champion.

Those who thought Douglas would win were misled by the champion, who kept insisting he was 232lb. "The same as in Tokyo," he kept saying. His weight was a well-kept secret, but like the little man in Edward G. Robinson's stomach in the film, *Double Indemnity*, that kept saying something was wrong, there was a nagging doubt about Douglas's weight and frame of mind.

Had it been known that he was 246lb, things would have been clearer. People would have realised that as Douglas was set up for life and hated boxing, it was time to take the \$24 million and run. Now it is all so obvious. As Edward G. said on figuring out Fred MacMurray's scheme: "It all fits together like a watch."

## Italia 90 boost to crowds

By LOUISE TAYLOR

FOOTBALL attendances are rising at their steepest rate since the England World Cup triumph in 1966. Three months on from England's appearance in the semi-finals of Italia 90, first division crowds have risen by 13.8 per cent on last year, and if the improvement is maintained, total gates should approach the nine million mark this season.

The decision to revert to a 22-club first division next season should ensure the upswing is sustained. Clubs promoted last season have fared best, with Sunderland's gates up by 50 per cent and Sheffield United's by 36 per cent. Crystal Palace, the losing FA Cup finalists in May, have enjoyed a 27 per cent rise, while for Tottenham Hotspur, the employers of Paul Gascoigne and Gary Lineker, the figure is 26 per cent.

Bill Fox, the president of the Football League, said: "We have turned the corner. The game is once again surging forward. Obviously it is largely down to England's success in the World Cup, but there are other factors involved. Hooliganism is no longer the problem that it has been in the past, and the quality of the sport has risen."

"Televised games like Aston Villa's European match with Inter Milan this week, prove how much the game is improving, and generate interest. It all helps create a stage for us to implement the recommendations contained in the Taylor Report, and to fulfil our aim of staging a World Cup or European championship in England."

"I do not think the change to a 22-club first division has had much bearing on the attendances, because that will not come into play until next season."

Clough's goal, page 29

## Edberg to fight fines

STEFAN Edberg, the world No. 1 tennis player, has said he will appeal against fines imposed for not playing his full quota of tournaments on the IBM/Association of Tennis Professionals Tour (Andrew Longmore writes).

Edberg was fined approximately £70,000, which is 15 per cent of his earnings on the Tour this year, for being two tournaments short on his contractual commitment and it was reported that he had agreed to pay But Edberg, who had the option to add two tournaments to his schedule next year instead of paying, denied that yesterday.

"Fifteen per cent is too high," he said. "I never agreed to pay that amount. I was injured at the start of the year and could not play in two tournaments."

Edberg's decision came as a surprise to the ATP, which had received no petition. It has also fined Ivan Lendl and Andre Agassi.

SUMMARY  
Clough's career

IT IS 25 years ago today since Brian Clough, (above), then aged 30, began his career as a football manager with Hartlepool United, who were second from bottom of the fourth division.

Since then, as manager of Derby County and Nottingham Forest, he has reached the heights of footballing achievement, winning two first division championships, two European Cups and four League Cups. Clive White considers the secrets of an enduring success. Page 29

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Strong start

AUSTRALIA have shown few signs of weakness on their tour so far, winning all of their matches, and they start the first international against Great Britain at Wembley today in confident mood. Preview. Page 31

## TENNIS

## Gomer out



SARAH Gomer (above) lost 6-1, 6-1 to Helena Sukova in the quarter-finals of the Midland Bank tournament at the Brighton Centre yesterday, thus ending British hopes of success there. Andrew Longmore reports. Page 30

## RUGBY UNION

## All change

BARELY three months have passed since Argentina beat England in Buenos Aires but the team that will play Ireland at Lansdowne Road today shows many changes. Ireland have a new coach, Ciaran Fitzgerald, and will be looking to improve on their showing last season. Page 31

## GOLF

## Record round

WITH a course-record 65, José Rivero joined another Spaniard, José-Maria Olazábal, in the lead at the halfway stage in the Volvo Masters at Valderrama, Spain. They were on 141, a shot ahead of Mike Harwood and Sam Torrance. Page 32

## SKIING

## Down turn



THE British invented downhill racing but for years, British competitors in the sport have been regarded as a bit of a joke. But, as Brian James reports, Martin Bell (above) and others are bringing professionalism to the British approach. Page 28

## RACING

## Dayjur dream

DAYJUR, the champion sprinter of Europe, takes on the best American speed horses in the Breeders' Cup Sprint at Belmont Park, New York, today. The Dick Hern-trained colt heads a six-strong British challenge on the seven-race, \$10 million programme, the richest day's racing in the world. Page 33

## Ali claim damning and damaging

New York

ANOTHER heavyweight boxing contest takes place in Las Vegas — me, I'm just seeking peace, quiet, good taste and goodwill over here. Every town is beautiful and every sport is delightful after Las Vegas and boxing (apart from Atlantic City, of course). Meanwhile, this week, America has been treated to further revelations about Muhammad Ali. It has now been made clear that a brain scan demonstrated that Ali had brain damage as far back as 1981 — before his last fight. The information, published in *Parade* magazine, comes from Dr Ferdie Pacheco, formerly Ali's physician and a central member of the entourage, now estranged.

It will not come as a great shock to anyone. Ali is in a truly pitiable state: a walking public service announcement on the subject of the dangers of boxing. "They say it's because of Parkinson's Disease," Pacheco said. "But did the condition come from one fight too many? Before his last fight with Trevor Berbick, a CAT scan showed *cerebral atrophy*, *peduncular damage*, to the brain." To suffer concussion is to suffer brain damage; ergo the aim of boxing is to cause brain damage. Professional boxing is a form of public duelling, nothing less. And if boxing can lay low the greatest, what does it do to the sport's underclass and majority faction of multiple losers?

SIMON BARNES  
ON SATURDAY

## The bear facts of life

THIS column's hero of the week is Tony LaRussa, manager of the Oakland A's, the team which has just lost the World Series. He is featured in a new advertising campaign by the Humane Society of the United States. His picture is accompanied by the words: "When you buy fur, you really strike out."

LaRussa is a long-time supporter of animal rights. His office bridge carries a sticker which reads: "Support your right to arm bears." The Fur Information Council was predictably snuffy about it all, but me, I am cheering for LaRussa and for bears everywhere. What is more, I look forward to cheering the first animal rights supporter in English football.

## Quick-change artist

Dan Miller was a very narrow miss for this column's ever-coveted nomination as hero of the week. Miller is a football player — gridiron variety — from Londonderry, New Hampshire. He plays linebacker for Londonderry High School... but when it is half-time, he changes into another uniform and plays

drum in the school marching band as they give their half-time performance.

As soon as play starts again, Miller is into another quick-change routine. It is hard work being a renaissance schoolboy: "The cleats and pants are the hardest part of the changeover," he said. "The shoes alone have two different pairs of laces to undo before I can take them off."

Salutations to Jergens skin cream for boldly going where no skin cream has gone before. They are the first sponsors to put a company logo onto the uniforms of college cheerleaders. The history-making ladies are from Memphis State University.

## Money for old rope

NOSTALGIA is one of sport's staples. Trying to convince a person that the cricketers of today might be roughly competent, and that the players of his own far-off youth may have had their off-days, is like sneering at a person's religion. The phenomenon exists all right but how do you set about making money from it? Lee Trevino has cracked it. He is now 50, which made him eligible this year for the grand nostalgia circuit — the Senior Professional Golf Association Tour in the United States.

While the young clones in their polyester trousers and polo shirts

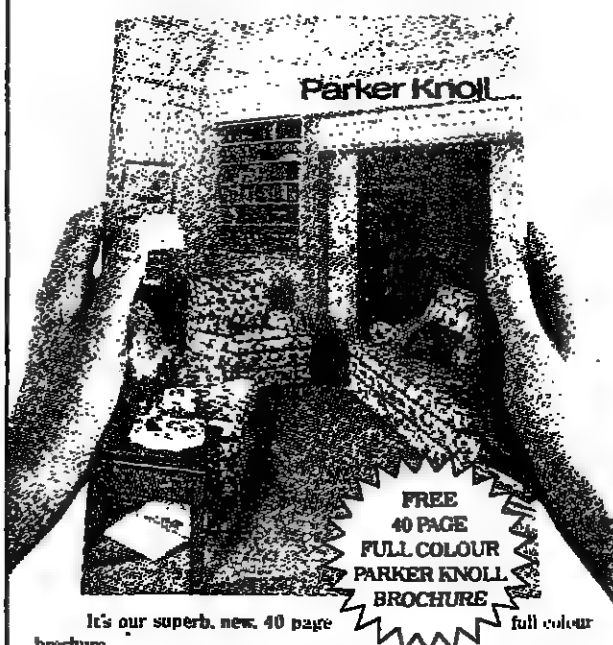
lose the Ryder Cups, the grand old buffers strut their stuff and live on the public's memories. The stunt is so successful that Trevino will have earned \$1 million (about £513,000) from his year by the time the season ends. The leading money-winner on the proper Tour — the one that is supposed to be about the pursuit of excellence rather than nostalgia — is Greg Norman. He trails Trevino with a mere \$907,000. Beth Daniel is the leading money-winner on the women's tour with \$863,578.

## Hurling headlong

MORE nostalgia. It is becoming the thing for great athletes just a touch past their prime to go bobbleheading. Allan Wells made an unprepossessing start to this new career when he fell over during the push-start in the British Open championship in Germany this week, but Edwin Moses, the great American hurdler, is talking a fine bobblehead. "The pushing is the key to it," he said. "Anybody can get in the sled and hold on." Presumably no one had told him about Wells's excitement.

This week, Moses has gone to Calgary to partner Brian Shimer in the two-man bob. The long-term aim is a gold medal at the Winter Olympics. The only person to have won gold at summer and winter Games was a gentleman called Eddie Egan, an American who won a boxing gold in 1920 and a bobsleigh gold in 1932.

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Dick is sceptical, however, about Johnson's ability to return to the track at the same level at which he left it: with a world record that was subsequently expunged from the books. Dick expects that a two-year absence will have left Johnson ring-rusty, and that he will have psychological difficulty returning to run against opponents without the benefit of drugs now that he is repeatedly undergoing random testing.

Karen Barnes (bantamweight) and Sharon Rendle (featherweight), lead the women's team from which Diane Bell is missing, having suffered a fitness test on a recurring lower leg injury. Sharon Mills, aged 20, the Commonwealth middleweight champion, who decided to drop down to fly in the summer, is competing in the lead.

The participation of Germany, the European judo Union, has agreed that the

This is succeeded by an exhaustive selection process, with specialist training from eight for swimmers, divers and

**TODAY:** Australia's formidable rugby league team takes on Great Britain, with Garry Hume, former Black turned league convert with Leeds, joins Desmond Lynch in the Wembley stadium. A tactical analysis of what promises to be an entertaining afternoon (*Grandstand*, BBC1, from 12.15pm). At 10pm on Channel 4, the world's richest race meeting, to be shown in full from the Royal Ascot, New York.

**TOMORROW:** Spain's Graf hopes to put a troubled year behind her by winning the Midland Bank women's tennis championship at Brighton for a third successive season (BBC2, 2pm-4pm). Whether Graf keeps up her winning streak or not, *The Winning Streak* (Channel 4, 7pm) provides a

**MONDAY:** Week-long coverage of the \$1 million *Pans Open* starts today on EuroSport. All the big names are there, including Becker, Edberg, Sampras, McEnroe and Lendl (2.30pm-5.30pm).

**TUESDAY:** Monday's big American football game sees the LA Rams at Pittsburgh, Nicky Buckner the best of that action with analyses of the best of the thrills from all the other games.

**WEDNESDAY:** There is boxing on BBC (Pat Hodgkinson's European featherweight title defence) and on most ITV stations (the Lennox Lewis European heavyweight blue bout) (*Midweek Sports Special* at 10.40pm). There is also a lot of tennis from the London, Rumburg and Wimbledon (Sportsnight, 10pm) has a profile on the javelin thrower who could make a million, Steve Baddeley.

**THURSDAY:** You can keep up to date on Spanish football form and Real Madrid's Pans Open tennis. EuroSport is live from 7.15am to 8pm and again from 7pm until 5.30pm.

**FRIDAY:** Similar tennis coverage on Eurosport plus practice from Adelaide for the Australian grand prix at 10pm.

**FROM NICOLAS SOMMES IN DUBROVNIK**

**A** TOTAL of 22 entries, the most for a decade, for the European team championships here this weekend means that Britain will be hard pressed to match last year's performance, which brought a silver in the women's event and a bronze for the men.

Britain's world champions, Karen Bardsley (bantamweight) and Sharon Rendle (featherweight), lead the women's team from which Diane Bell is missing, having pulled a fitness test on a recurring lower back injury. Sharon Mills, aged 20, the Commonwealth middleweight champion, who decided to drop down to fly in the summer, is competing in blue.

At the men's competition, Germany, the European Judo Union, has agreed that the country can be represented by two teams. Had Germany produced a combined team in the men's, the control of France and the Soviet Union might have been challenged seriously.

British chances of a bronze will depend, to some extent, on a good draw, though the team led by middleweight Denis Whitworth, who is fighting with the injured Mark Prescott (featherweight) replaced by Owen Finnock.

**BRITISH TEAM MEN: Bantamweight: N. Duggan, L. Pinnock. Light: D. Whitworth. Light-heavyweight: A. Brown. Middle-heavyweight: D. Gordon. Heavyweight: E. Gordon. Super-heavyweight: K. Brown. Featherweight: S. Rendle. Middleweight: S. Mills. Light-heavyweight: S. Mills. Middle-heavyweight: S. Mills. Heavyweight: J. Howley. Super-heavyweight: J. Morris.**







## BASKETBALL

## Kingston prove a point in defence

By NICHOLAS HARLING

TO RESTRICT any team to 28 points in one half is a worthy aim to limit opposition to the calibre of CSKA Moscow to such a degree that, as Kingston did in the second half on Thursday, says volumes for a defensive operation that may yet prove the foundation for the most spectacular success yet by a British club.

Kingston have been into the last eight in Europe before, in the Cup Winners' Cup two years ago, but never before in the Champions' Cup. But after their 9-77 success in the first leg of the second-round tie, a European Cup quarter-final place beckons in Moscow next Thursday if Kevin Cadle's squad can succeed where many others have failed.

Among them were Crystal Palace who, after beating Real Madrid by eight points eight years ago, were blown away in the second leg. Similar lapses befell both Warrington (Manchester) and Portsmouth after building up handsome leads against Livorno, Italy, and the Yugoslavs from Sibenik respectively. Alton Byrd, who left Palace shortly before the trauma of Madrid, believes Kingston have little to fear.

"People tend to over-estimate the second leg," he said. "But you've got to remember that we have a lot of experience of playing away. We won the title last year on the road and when we went to Den Helder in the last round, everyone said that five points wouldn't be enough, yet we won by ten."

Byrd (20 points) shared Kingston's scoring honours with Alan Cunningham (26) and Martin Clark (22), but none of the players would dispute the coach's testimony that the team's resolution under their own basket proved decisive. "Moscow have some tough outside shooters but we did a great defensive job," Cadle said. "We didn't give them a whole lot of shots."

Although Cadle says he will be unhappy with anything less than another Kingston victory, he would undoubtedly settle for a defeat by 15 points before 5,500 Muscovites next Thursday. The experience will be a far cry from the inauspicious and cramped arena of Kingston's home at Tolworth.

**CHAMPIONS' CUP RESULTS:** Second round, first leg. Moscow (U.S.S.R.) 82, Kingston 77. First round, second leg. Moscow (U.S.S.R.) 82, Kingston 77. First round, second leg. Moscow (U.S.S.R.) 82, Kingston 77.

**FOOTBALL**  
Barclays League  
First division  
Arsenal v Sunderland  
Man City v Man Utd (all kick 12.00)  
Nottm Forest v Tottenham (all kick 12.00)  
QPR v Norwich  
Sheff Wed v Coventry  
Southampton v Derby Co

**Second division**  
Barnsley v Swindon  
Brighton v Middlesbrough  
Bristol R v Portsmouth  
Leicester v Ipswich  
Millwall v Sheff Wed  
Newcastle v West Brom  
Oxford v Notts Co  
Plymouth v Hull  
Port Vale v Bristol City  
Watford v Oxford  
Wolves v Charlton  
Wolves v Blackpool

**ABACUS LEAGUE: National division**  
Aston v Birmingham  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton

**ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division**  
Aston v Birmingham  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton

**BEAVER LEAGUE: Premier division**  
Aston v Birmingham  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton

**BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division**  
Aston v Birmingham  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton

**CHESHIRE LEAGUE: Premier division**  
Aston v Birmingham  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton

**CHESHIRE LEAGUE: Premier division**  
Aston v Birmingham  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton

## Sukova reaches a tennis semi-final at the crushing expense of the Brighton belle

## Gomer's ambitions evaporate

By ANDREW LONGMORE  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

SARA Gomer's distant hope of being British No. 1 at the end of the year took just 49 minutes to fade against Helena Sukova at Brighton yesterday. If Gomer had beaten the No. 3 seed to reach the semi-finals of the Midland Bank championships, she could have overtaken Jo Durie, who is now virtually certain of getting back to the No. 1 position she lost to Monique Javer amid much controversy last year.

As it was, Gomer's recent improvement was put firmly into perspective by the Czechoslovak, whose own game barely touched the mediocre, and she won only two games. "I was given a lesson by a top 20 player," she said. "I was playing closer to how I would like to play, but I just wasn't good enough."

In spite of her comprehensive defeat, Gomer will go on domestic duty at the national championships at Telford next week with confidence renewed. She might even become national champion, which would be an award at the end of a traumatic year. But there is still an awful lot of work to be done before Gomer can seriously consider breaking into the top 50 in the world, at the age of 26, there is precious little time to do it.

This week, she has been more aggressive than in the past and served better than at any time this year, but her lack of mobility will always be exploited, even by the likes of Sukova, who is, at 6ft 2in tall, the same height as Gomer and not the fittest on the circuit.

Gomer's one chance was to get her heavy left-handed



Sukova reaches a tennis semi-final at the crushing expense of the Brighton belle

service working and hope to put enough pressure on the Sukova serve to scramble a break. But the writing was on the wall from the moment she lost the first two games of the match.

The first set went by in 26 minutes, the second was four minutes faster. In neither did Gomer ever look like staging firm resistance. "It is a real bonus for me to have done well here. I aimed to get back in the top 100 this year and to

go higher than that next year, but there's a lot to work on and there will be matches like today." Hopefully, not too many.

On a rather different plane, Steffi Graf is also in a period of transition. Her top spin backhands, once a rarity, are becoming increasingly common as she tries to develop more all-round aggression to combat the rise of Seles and Capriati.

Yesterday, safe in the know-

ledge that her opponent, Nathalie Tauziat, had not taken a set off her in 11 matches, Graf played two rolled backhands in succession and followed up with a genuine serve and volley.

Whatever Steffi did, she did it faster and with more power than the French girl, who has a nice touch but not much belief. There was never much doubt that the defending champion would reach her

third successive semi-final. If she was distracted by thoughts of her father, who was facing a paternity suit in a German court, it did not show and she duly completed a 6-2, 6-4 win in 51 minutes. It seems the only frustration Graf will suffer this week is not being able to get into the Monei exhibition because the queues were too long.

**RESULTS: Brighton Bank Championships**  
Sukova (Czech) 6-2, 6-4 Gomer (GB) 1-6, 2-6 Graf (Ger) 6-2, 6-4

## MOTOR SPORT

## Foreign entry looks strong

By STEPHEN SLATER

BRITAIN'S emerging drivers will face tough opposition in the Dutchmans Formula Ford Festival at Brands Hatch in Kent this weekend.

The equally-matched 1600cc racing cars, mounted on slim Dunlop road tyres, require quick reactions and high commitment from their drivers, many of whom are in their first full year of racing.

Despite strong competition from other racing categories, success in the three-day battle to win a place in the festival final is

still regarded as a breakthrough towards a professional career.

Warren Hughes, the junior Formula Ford champion, from Sunderland, and David Sear, the British Formula Ford champion, are expected to perform well. But Michael Vergers, from The Netherlands, and Marc Delplaine, of Belgium, have proved their strength in British races. The Spanish driver, Pedro de la Rosa, and Alvaro de Arexza, have been trained for the festival by the 1984 winner, Gerri Van Kouwen.

One driver who switches to

World Sports Car racing for a year next year, is to take part in the Lonsdale RAC Rally next month. He joins the Subaru works team for Britain's round of the world rally championship from November 25 to 29.

Louise Aiken-Walker, of Scotland, yesterday lifted the FIA women's international Cup after her sole remaining rival, Paola de Martini, of Italy, decided not to enter the Lombard RAC rally.

## GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

## FOOTBALL

## Barclays League

## First division

Arsenal v Sunderland  
Man City v Man Utd (all kick 12.00)  
Nottm Forest v Tottenham (all kick 12.00)  
QPR v Norwich  
Sheff Wed v Coventry  
Southampton v Derby Co

## Second division

Barnsley v Swindon  
Brighton v Middlesbrough  
Bristol R v Portsmouth  
Leicester v Ipswich  
Millwall v Sheff Wed  
Newcastle v West Brom  
Oxford v Notts Co  
Plymouth v Hull  
Port Vale v Bristol City  
Watford v Oxford  
Wolves v Charlton  
Wolves v Blackpool

## ABACUS LEAGUE: National division

Aston v Birmingham  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton

## ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division

Aston v Birmingham  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton

## BEAVER LEAGUE: Premier division

Aston v Birmingham  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton

## BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division

Aston v Birmingham  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton

## CHESHIRE LEAGUE: Premier division

Aston v Birmingham  
Barnsley v Bolton  
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## CHESHIRE LEAGUE: Premier division

Aston v Birmingham  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton  
Barnsley v Bolton

## RUGBY UNION

## Tour match

Inland v Argentina (at Lansdowne Road, 2.45)

## Courage Clubs Championship

First division  
Bristol v Bath  
Gloucester v Nottingham  
Harlequins v Liverpool St Helens  
Leicester v Saracens  
Northampton v Bath  
Oxford v Northampton  
Rugby v Northampton

## Second division

Headingley v Blackheath  
London Irish v Worcester  
Newcastle Gosforth v Coventry  
Plymouth v Rugby  
Rugby v Northampton  
Walsley v London Scottish

## Third division

Clifton v Morley  
Fylde v Exeter  
Lynsey v West Hartlepool  
Metropolitan Police v Asquiths  
Northampton v Worcester  
Rugby v Northampton  
Walsley v London Scottish

## Fourth division north

Durham v Harrogate  
Lichfield v Birmingham  
Northampton v Worcester  
Rugby v Northampton  
Walsley v London Scottish

## Fourth division south

Ealing v Camberley  
Havant v Chertsey  
London Welsh v Basingstoke  
Rugby v Northampton  
Walsley v London Scottish

## Heineken Welsh League

Premier division  
Cardiff v Aberystwyth (2.30)  
Newport v Cardiff (2.30)  
Newport v Cardiff (2.30)  
Newport v Cardiff (2.30)

## First division

Aberystwyth v Ebbw Vale  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Second division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Third division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Fourth division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Fifth division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Sixth division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Seventh division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Eighth division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Ninth division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Tenth division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Eleventh division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Twelfth division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
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Cardiff v Newport

## Thirteenth division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
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Cardiff v Newport

## Fourteenth division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Fifteenth division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Sixteenth division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Seventeenth division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## Eighteenth division

Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport  
Cardiff v Newport

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## British Cup Test

Great Britain v Australia (at Wembley, 2.30)

## FOOTBALL

## Stoke Cup final

Colts v Rangers (at Hampden Park)

## LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Second division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Third division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Fourth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Fifth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Sixth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Seventh division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Eighth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
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Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Ninth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
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## Tenth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
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## Eleventh division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
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## Twelfth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
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## Thirteenth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
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## Fourteenth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
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## Fifteenth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
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## Sixteenth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
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Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Seventeenth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
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Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Eighteenth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Nineteenth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Twentieth division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Twenty-first division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## Twenty-second division

Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers  
Shamrock Rovers v Sligo Rovers

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## British Cup Test

Great Britain v Australia (at Wembley, 2.30)

## FOOTBALL

## Stoke Cup final

Colts v Rangers (at Hampden Park)

## LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division

Shamrock



# Down to earth in an up-and-under world

A grainy, black and white photograph of two men standing in front of a sign. The man on the left is wearing a dark jacket and holding a white helmet with the number 13. The man on the right is wearing a light-colored shirt and a dark jacket. The sign in the background reads "GREAT CRITTER AUSTRALIA KENNEY STADIUM OCTOBER 1990".

## TODAY'S TEAMS AT WEMBLEY

**SUBSTITUTES:** D. Halsey (Widnes), K. Ward (St Helens), S. Edwards (Wigan), K. Fairbank (Bradford N).

hope in the face of the Great Britain team manager, Maurice Lindsay.

When Daley lost his battle for fitness in midweek, the setback merely underlined the strength in depth and versatility of the touring party. Instead of opting for Cliff Lyons, a man of considerable experience at stand-off half, or five eighths as the Australians term the position, Futoh chose Ricky Stuart, deputy scrum half to Langer, to fill Daley's gifted boots.

This may be a gamble since Stuart turned from rugby union to league just two years ago after a distinguished union career. However, he has shown himself to be a speedy and combative player, and his union must rate him highly to choose him over the likes of Keith Walters. Lyons and Keith's utility half back, Des Hasler.

The Australians' coaching and training system has had three days to fit Stuart into their streamlined attacking plans, and any ideas about Daley's loss weakening the side may prove illusory.

Nevertheless, there is genuine optimism, and renewed faith, in the British camp. Mal

Reilly does not dwell on, or even choose to mention, Scotland's 1988-89 in that third international of an already lost series. Great Britain's patched up, injury-ravaged team of no-hopers beat an Australian team which had been tipped to score 40 points without reaching first gear.

A Great Britain side fired by pride and the need to restore self-respect can achieve the seemingly improbable by tearing into the Australians for the full 80 minutes. Under Hanley's wholehearted leadership, and with Gregory's nimble cunning, Schofield's tactical kicking and smooth handling, and the speed of Offiah on the wing, they are certainly not without hope or a reasonable chance.

A record crowd of between 50,000 and 60,000 is expected to range themselves behind Great Britain to ensure that the British Coal series begins with a genuine contest — one which will bring the series to life and which, regardless of the result, will make Old Trafford and Elland Road appetising prospects in the second and third international matches.

# TODAY'S TEAM

## GREAT BRITAIN

<b>S</b> Hampson (Wigan)	1	Full
<b>P</b> Eastwood (Hull)	2	R
<b>D</b> Powell (Sheffield E)	3	R C
<b>C</b> Gibson (Leeds)	4	L C
<b>M</b> Offish (Widnes)	5	L V
<b>G</b> Schofield (Leeds)	6	Star
<b>A</b> Gregory (Wigan)	7	Scrum
<b>K</b> Harrison (Hull)	8	Prop
<b>L</b> Jackson (Hull)	9	Hooker
<b>P</b> Dixon (Leeds)	10	Prop
<b>R</b> Powell (Leeds)	11	Second
<b>D</b> Betts (Wigan)	12	Second
<b>E</b> Hanley (Wigan, capt)	13	Loose

**SUBSTITUTES:** D Healey (Widnes), K Ward (St Helens), S Edwards (Wigan), K Parbank (Bradford N).

**Referee:** A Salter

AUSTRALIA		
back	G Belcher (Canberra)	1
wing	A Ettingshausen (Cronulla)	5
centre	M McGaw (Cronulla)	3
centre	M Meninga (Canberra, capt)	4
wing	M Hancock (Brisbane)	2
half	R Stuart (Canberra)	6
half	A Langer (Brisbane)	7
prop	S Roach (Balmain)	8
hooker	K Walters (Manly)	9
prop	M Bella (Manly)	10
second row	P Saronis (Balmain)	11
second row	J Cartwright (Penrith)	12
forward	R Lindner (W Suburbs)	13

SUBSTITUTES: D Hasky (Manly), G Alexander (Penrith), G Shearer (Brisbane), G Lassaras (Canberra).

playoffs (France).

**LAURA THOMPSON**

Waring's bring rugby league into disrepute? I asked a rugby-playing acquaintance for his thoughts on the Waring question. After waxing lyrical on the subject of *his* *Knockout*, while pretending to have hated it, he averred that Waring had been a good thing for rugby league because he had given it popular appeal.

Nevertheless, he had been a bad thing for rugby league because he had made it into a bit of a joke, what with his little hat, his "up-and-unders", his "early baths" and the meandering, wayward, northern baneshe wails with which he prefaced every sentence.

What I suppose he meant was that Waring, by being so overwhelmingly northern, emphasised the localised, parochial nature of rugby league. But you cannot get away from the fact that there are something like eight clubs in the south of England and four entire leagues in the north.

I certainly felt like I was the only southerner at last week's game between Leeds and the Australians except, of course, for the Australians, who were from far further south than I.

Before the match, a friendly, family atmosphere prevailed; but at about three minutes to three the crowd began revving up its atavistic loyalties. The Leeds players were cheered on like close personal friends and the Australians were booed like 13 Captain Hooks.

**T**he spectators were magnificently, unthinkingly biased. But although they are united in their support, there is none of that silly, show-off, chanting mentality that welds a football crowd into its uneasy, aggressive concretion. This is not to say that the Leeds supporters were not aggressive in their way.

In front of me was a girl of about ten, flanked by her parents. How nice that they can take her to a match without worrying about her. I thought, rather patronisingly;

In fact, she was possibly the most aggressive person there and that's how I got well acquainted with the rules.

"Offsides!" she would screech, every other minute. "Kick 'im hard!" "Get 'im down!" Her parents appeared to have elected her as their spokesperson, since both remained silent throughout.

On my left was a man whose face perfectly and simultaneously expressed deep misery and pure happiness. He was a man in his place of worship.

**L**ess aggressive than the little girl, he had a more pedantic style of address than the nevertheless contained within his strong emotions. "Get that big mental git down," he plunked, as a vast Australian attempted to bite through a Leeds ear.

Songs of praise were dispensed in the same measured yet impassionate tones. And when two foolhardy Australian supporters began waving their national flag, "Get back in the cink, you lot."

But the moment the game was over, the spectators reverted to friendly normality. Leeds had lost but that was no reason to make an effigy of Rolf Harris.

Any sport that is treated to fulsome coverage by the media will become more by just a sport: it will become an image, a symbol, a sociological barometer. That has not happened to rugby league, whose media profile was probably at its highest years ago when Eddie Waring was in full, banshee wail flood.

Over the last six months, I have watched football become taken up by poncey, arty people, like me. They discuss Gascoigne's cross to Waddle against Poland in the same way that they discuss the focus of David Lynch's camera upon a severed hand.

Therefore, take note of David Storey's warning in *The Sporting Life* (yes, I do know that Richard Harris is really an actor): "Rugby league's a great game. It's about the only manly game left, and it's only spoilt by people who try and make it something else."

## Fitzgerald's rebuilt Irish have modest goals against Pumas

Ireland		
Murphy (Constitution)	15	Full Back
K Hoekes (KRA)	14	Right Wing
J Mullin (Blackrock College)	13	Right Wing
M J Kieran (M)	12	Left Wing
(Dolphin)		
K Crossan (netizens)	11	Left Wing
A Smith (Luzitania)	10	Stand-off
A C Rolland (Blackrock College)	9	Scrum
(Dolphin)		
N J Popplewell (M)	1	Prop
P McDonald (Malone)	2	Hooker
C Fitzgerald (Lansdowne)	3	Prop
P Mannion (Lansdowne)	6	Flanker
O G Lemish* (Constitution)	4	Lock
S J Johns (Dublin University)	5	Lock
W D MacRide (M)	7	Flanker
J Lawlor (Desane Rangers)	8	No
*Captain		

REPLACEMENTS: 18 V J G Cunningham (M & H Magdalen), 17 M P Rogers (Constitution), 18 M T Bradley (Constitution), 19 M J Galsworthy (M & H Magdalen), 20 J P Rogers (Dolphin)		
Referee: C T J		

"There's a great air of excitement," Fitzgerald said, "because we've done a lot of training and now is the time to test it. We'll practice and see how well we can perform. We are not expecting too much from this starting point."

**REPLACEMENTS:** 15 V J G Curingham (St. Mary's College), 17 R P Kayes (Constitution), 18 M T Bradley (Constitution), 19 M J Gahay (Shannon), 20 J J Fitzgerald (Young Munster), 21 T J Gleason (Dolphin).

pealed for simple qualities from his players: pride, commitment and endeavour; and he got them. Fitzgerald as coach will surely make the same appeal to today's players, five of whom — Mullin, Kiernan, Crossan, Des Fitzgerald and Lenihan — play alongside him before his international career ended in 1986.

The retention of Noel Mannion at blind-side flanker, rather than No. 8, and the addition of Lawlor will give Ireland more height than they customarily enjoy, assuming Colin Hawke, the New Zealand referee, provides more regulation at the in-goal than the Australian, Brian Kinsey, did when England lost to Argentina. I would expect Ireland to do well there, and at the set scrums where Des Fitzgerald will surely make good use of his experience against Mendy.

In that respect it remains to be seen how well the Argentine scrum has come together; it has been a vital ingredient in such success as they have achieved throughout the Eighties and if they can establish any kind of a platform, Porta will be looking to score at the least opportunity. A penalty, a dropped goal, any points on the board to help settle his inexperienced side.

They would enjoy good weather for the game, in which to display their easy familiarity with the ball, since back to back kicking before an anticipated crowd of 25,000. They may not get it and victory may equally be hard to come by.

BY GERALD DAVIES

THERE was an almost audible sigh of relief when Llanelli registered their first Heineken League victory last night when they found themselves in such dire straits. The Scarlets can do no worse than rely on a clutch of green youngsters to show them the way out.

The backguard were given a respite in midfield against Glamorgan Wanderers and in came a couple of former Llandovery schoolboys, Luc Evans, who scored 23 points, and Ian Jones, who grabbed two tries. Huw Jones also scored, while Siochyn Stephens at stand-off half.

All three are given a further vote of confidence tomorrow as they travel to the more testing ground of Pontypool.

Albany, who were voted the team of the month in September, have lost their way somewhat and have fallen in their last two matches. They visit Cardiff today in an unlikely attempt to win their first game.

Cardiff, whose 1-1 men sneaked a victory at Pontypool last Saturday, will be without Steve Ford, their Wales wing.

He has fractured a thumb.

Cardiff will have a brilliant counter-attacking try in win in the final moments at Bridgend last Saturday, thus giving life to the idea that league rugby must be of a defensive kind.

Cardiff manager John Swaince, taking their chances rather than being confidently in command. Today, they face the more uncompromising Pontypool at St. Helens.

Swaince's back-row forwards, Neath bring back their assistant coach, Dai-Id Pickering, into the team to join Adrian Varnes, who replaced Marlyn Morris last week.

Paul Thornburn will captain his club against Glamorgan Wanderers instead of Kevin Phillips, who is on the bench.

## Llanelli go for their youngsters

## Bristol h to spice

# ave the m up champ

By DAVID HANDS

would wish, Bristol have not been particularly imposing this season, but if anything is to bring the best out of them it is the visit of Bath to the Memorial Ground, where they triumphed by only one point last season. After the pause for the international weekend Bath must now play Harlequins at home and Leicester away, both intriguing matches.

They may have Damien Croxall available for the Leicester

**Gloucester v Nottingham**  
Gloucesters plays his first league game of the season in Gloucester's second row but Gardiner (scrum half) replaces Harnford. Gloucester play Gloucester at stand-off, move Hodgkinson to full back and return Hudson (hooker).

**Harlequins v Lpool St H**  
Winterbottom (flanker) and Harnford bring Harlequins' pack to strength. Liverpool play Gak at prop for the uneavable Robins.

**Wrexham v Northampton**  
Robins, recovered from damaged finger, plays in Orell's second row and Hinchin returns at hooker. Northampton play Wrexham.

**Headingley v Blackheath**  
Headingley switch wings, Joyce on the right and Thornton, left. Blackheath have seven forwards including Hurns and Clarke in the front row, Hursley and Wishart in the second row and Hurns in the flank.

**London Irish v Waterloo**  
Irish hope Goughen will be fit to play on the wing but Donovan is

out for six weeks and Robson props. Blackridge (wing) and Pasquet (hooker) hope to be fit for the match but Widsa and Haylett stand by.

**Plymouth A v Rugby**  
Plymouth rejig their back division to include Thomas (full back), Wallkin (wing), Leonard (centre), who plays his first game since early September. Fleetwood replaces the injured Goughen. Rugby play Plymouth.

**Wakefield v L Scottish**  
Wakefield, lucky with injuries, keep an unchanged XV for the third week running while Scottish have the team they beat Headingley.

**Glamorgan W v Neath**  
Wanderers have made seven changes (one position) from the last game. Glamorgan have Thomas hooker for Neath who have Pizzardo on the flank and give Griffiths and Graham Dennis places on the wing.

**Swansea v Pontypridd**  
Arnold has been passed fit to play in Swansea's pack but Reynolds and Morgan are still injured. Swansea have Gwynne and Mickleth (wing) join the backs.

## Anxious time for New Zealanders

FROM CHRIS THAM  
IN AGEN

AFTER another inconclusive performance in France on Wednesday, New Zealand approach the fourth game of their eight-match tour, in Argentina, with apprehension.

Normally, the New Zealanders would reach the halfway point of a short tour with the international side playing well.

It is a fact that only Grant Fox among the backs, the captain, Gary Whetton, and front row regulars, Steve Donaldson and Colin Meads, are considered for the international in Namus is a proof of the touring team's predicament.

By their standards, New Zealand are playing poorly. They lack the fire and the required speed and

adventure so far. Their back row, their inspiration and ball supply lifeline seem to operate well below par. Alan Whetton is a bit of a blunderer, and his team, while Michael Jones, who excelled in the 1987 World Cup, seems to have lost a yard or two since his accident.

Without that crisp second half, the team playing philosophy and practice of New Zealand is based, the team effort looks disjointed. Consequently, the coach, Alex Wyllie, made 12 changes to the team that played on Wednesday night, with the 27-21 win for today's game against the French Barbarians.

The entire back row is gone and should the two flankers, Henderson and Brewer, perform creditably the unthinkable might happen. Michael Jones and Alan

Whetton could find themselves on the bench for the international. "I don't think Jones pointed out that he is not yet fully prepared for international action. The A's Black said: 'The game in Brive was my sixth first class match since coming back from injury. I know what I'm doing now.'"

Wyllie has also identified the quality of the possession as a major weakness of the earlier games. "We have to improve the quality of the ball provided by the forwards to get the backs into a better position to run."

The Barbarians lost both Will Carling, of England, and Frank Mesnel, whose sterling performance in Brive made him a certainty for the international in Nantes. Denis Chavet replaced Carling while Philippe Saint-Amant takes over from Mesnel.

In true Barbarian fashion, the Australian, David Campepe, failed to confirm his arrival but was subsequently uncouthly winged, turned up, his standby replacement, Bernard Lacombe, will remain on the bench.

**NEW ZEALAND:** K Crowley; J Timu, C Jones, W Lide, V Tuganigas, G Fox, P Hoggins, M Thompson, R Evans, M Purvis, M Brewer, G Whetton (captain), M Pearce, P Henderson, 2 Brookes.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** D Kooze, D Berry, P Saint-Amand, D Chavel, D Campepe (B Lacombe), P Montaur, P Boshoff, S van der Merwe, C Steyn, L Cammies, P Semeria, J-M Cadeau, T Mostet, A Benazzi.

**IRELAND:** D Doyle (captain).

© Both the Numbas and the Emerging Australians, who began European tours next week, arrived in England yesterday. Namibia open at Liverpool St Helens on Tuesday against Lancashire.

## Replacements in South side

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# Olazábal's talent is conspicuous in Ballesteros's absence

FROM MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, SOTOGRADE

SEVERIANO Ballesteros might be absent but José María Olazábal and José Rivero provided the meagre Spanish following with much to celebrate in the Volvo Masters second round here in Spain yesterday.

Olazábal emphasised again his enormous talent with a 69 in which he did not drop a shot and Rivero, conspicuous by his absence from the leader board this season, clawed his way back from anonymity with a 65 which established a course record by two strokes.

Olazábal and Rivero share the halfway lead on 141, two under par, while Ballesteros did not feel duty bound to compete, a decision Olazábal understood, although his absence coincides with the PGA European Tour announcing their intention to stamp out contentious payments to players.

Volvo's budget for the tour is put at about £7 million each year, although no provision is made for appearance money because the company does not pay it. That could be construed as the reason why Ballesteros is not playing. The tour is keen to erase the term appearance money from its vocabulary in 1992, when it intends to implement new conditions.

Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA

European Tour, said: "It is the people who play who are the problem and they will face elimination from the tour if they are seen to contravene the new regulations."

Olazábal is one who could look forward to increasing his income from such payments, although he stressed that he would be satisfied if the money were added to the tournament fund. What drives him is the desire to emulate Ballesteros in winning a major championship.

The Valderrama course here sets the kind of examination which in the main brings the cream to the surface and Olazábal's golf from tee to green illustrated his immense skill and the reason for believing that it will not be long before he begins his major championship collection.

Rivero must accept that at 35 he will not reach the same heights as Ballesteros, although it would not be beyond him to win a place in Europe's Ryder Cup team next year. His controlled swing in the windy conditions allowed him to succeed on a course where many failed — the average second-round score was 74.2 — and for once this year his putter was a friend rather than a foe.

Sam Torrance, the first-round leader, took 73 to finish on 142 alongside the Australian, Mike Harwood (72), Ian

Woosnam and Mark McNulty each finished on 146. "It's like a torture chamber out there," Woosnam said. "They should put us off the forward tees to give us a chance. It's a nightmare — the greens, bunkers, everything. If I had to play here every week I would quit the game."

Further progress seems to have been made on the Ryder Cup. On Monday week Johnnie Walker will make a statement concerning its participation and a meeting of the Ryder Cup committee has been arranged for November 29, by which time it is hoped that the PGA European Tour and the Professional Golfers' Association will have agreed to work together.

SECOND ROUND (69 and in unless stated): 1. J. M. Olazábal (Spa), 72, 69; 2. J. Rivero (Spa), 65, 74; 3. S. Torrance (Sc), 72, 71; 4. M. Harwood (Aus), 72, 70; 5. I. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 6. M. McNulty (Ire), 72, 74; 7. S. J. Rivero (Spa), 72, 74; 8. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 9. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 10. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 11. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 12. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 13. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 14. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 15. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 16. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 17. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 18. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 19. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 20. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 21. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 22. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 23. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 24. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 25. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 26. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 27. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 28. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 29. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 30. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 31. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 32. J. Woosnam (Wls), 72, 74; 33. 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Executive Editor David Brewerton

## BUSINESS

## Starring spectre at the charity feast

## New bid for Caird ruled out

By MARTIN BARROW

THE Takeover Panel has rejected an appeal by Severn Trent, the privatised water company, against a decision preventing it from launching a revised bid for Caird, the waste disposal company, for at least 12 months.

Severn Trent had asked the panel for dispensation from Rule 35 of the Takeover Code, which blocks companies from renewing hostile offers within one year after they have lapsed, arguing that there had been a material change in Caird's financial position that had not been disclosed to the stock market.

Severn Trent's £78 million was conditional upon Caird reaffirming a profit forecast of £8.5 million before tax for the 18 months to the end of December. After the bid was announced, Severn Trent's advisers acquired almost 30 per cent of Caird in the market.

Caird's defence document revealed that profits were unlikely to exceed £7.2 million. Caird shares subsequently fell from the offer price of 100p to below 50p.

The panel ruled that Severn Trent had acquired the shares before a new profit forecast had been issued, having declined Caird's offer to make available relevant financial information. "The very fact that Severn Trent included the profit forecast condition demonstrated its concern that it might not be met," the panel ruled.

## THE POUND

US dollar

1.9555 (+0.0010)

German mark

2.9606 (+0.0034)

Exchange index

94.8 (+0.2)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1598.4 (-19.1)

FT-SE 100

2063.1 (-25.6)

New York Dow Jones

2458.91 (-25.25)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

25005.64 (-346.99)

Closing Prices ... Page 39

Major indices and

major changes Page 37

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%

3-month Interbank 13 1/4-13 1/2%

3-month eligible bills 13 1/4-13 1/2%

US: Prime Rate 10%

Federal Funds 7 1/4%

3-month Treasury Bills 7 1/4-7 1/2%

30-year bonds 9 3/4-9 1/2%

## CURRENCIES

London: New York:

C \$1.9555 D \$1.9555

C DM2.9606 D DM2.9606

C Sfr2.5011 D Sfr2.5011

C FF9.3271 D FF9.3271

C Yen249.61 D Yen249.61

C Indr54.8 D Indr54.8

ECU £0.9362 D £0.9362

ECU £0.9362 D £0.9362

Comex \$372.70-373.10

## GOLD

London Fixing:

AM \$377.30-377.70

Close \$372.75-373.25

191.00

New York:

Comex \$372.70-373.10

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec): \$35.40 (\$33.15)

Denotes latest trading price

## TOURIST RATES

Banks:

Austria \$ 2.95

Belgium £ 1.40

Canada \$ 1.95

Denmark \$ 1.95

France FF 9.33

Germany DM 2.96

Greece Dr 340.00

Hong Kong \$ 7.75

Ireland £ 1.40

Italy Lira 200.00

Japan Yen 160.00

Netherlands Gld 3.40

Norway Kr 4.75

Portugal Esc 200.00

South Africa R 1.95

Spain Ptas 166.67

Sweden Kr 4.75

Switzerland Fr 2.00

Turkey Lira 1.95

USA \$ 1.95

Yugoslavia Dr 1.95

Rates for great metropolitan banks only, as

suggested by British Bank of Commerce

Retail Price Index: 129.3 (September)

## IMITATION - JEWELLERY

## MERCHANTS - IMPORTERS

IMPORTANT SPANISH FACTORY OF GOLD PLATED CHAINS, IS VISITING U.K. (LONDON), SHORTLY.

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TELEPHONE: 34 6 566 86 60 FROM 9 a.m. till 5 p.m.  
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Social highlight: Lady Brocklebank, the host

## Cypriots warn of assets block at Polly Peck

By MATTHEW BOND

THE Turkish-controlled authorities in northern Cyprus have given a warning that they will take action to prevent Polly Peck International assets and deposits being repatriated to Britain.

As the newly-appointed administrators began the task of stabilizing Polly Peck by meeting directors at the company's Berkeley Square headquarters, Nazif Borman, north Cyprus finance minister, gave a clear warning: "The Polly Peck subsidiaries in northern Cyprus will be protected. If any creditor bank wants to take away Polly Peck assets here, our government, the central bank, will intervene immediately."

Mr Borman appears to be concerned that the withdrawal of £140 million of Polly Peck deposits held in north Cyprus banks will spark the collapse of the unrecognised republic's banking system. "We have to protect their accounts and the rights of the deposit holders," he said. In addition to the cash deposits, Polly Peck also has huge citrus and packaging interests on the island.

Concern that the administrators, Michael Jordan and Richard Stone of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte and Christopher Morris of Touche Ross, may face serious problems in repatriating money

from northern Cyprus, increased the pressure on Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, to launch a Department of Trade and Industry investigation. So far the administrators have not met DTI officials.

In Zurich, where Polly Peck shares are still traded, the price fell to 14p. A spokesman for the bourse said it had no plans to suspend them.

The Cypriot finance minister's comments were clearly at odds with the softly-softly approach adopted by the administrators on Thursday. Richard Stone, one of the three administrators appointed by the High Court, said: "We expect that we will get progressively more co-operation from the Turkish Cypriot authorities."

Mr Stone described a 45-minute meeting with Kenan Atakol, the Turkish Cypriot foreign minister, as fruitful.

Yesterday the administrators were still pursuing this line. Responding to Mr Borman, Mr Jordan said: "It's a pity to take a position before we have had a chance to have a discussion. We hope to be able to persuade them to change their views."

"We certainly would not force them to do anything. We want to explain what our obligations are in this administration, but until we do that it's very difficult." Before being appointed

By JON ASHWORTH

ASIL Nadir was in no mood for dancing this week. The collapse of his family business and threat of personal bankruptcy are hardly ingredients for a successful party. But the party in question, the Harley Street Ball, went ahead on Thursday evening to the relief of 280 socialites and members of the medical profession who had gathered at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

Although Mr Nadir did not attend, there was little doubt that he was the star of the show. Before his business dealings took a turn for the worse, Mr Nadir had pledged £5 million to help victims of cerebral palsy. The question on everyone's lips was, not surprisingly, whether he would make good his promise.

The task of ending the suspense fell

on William Grosvenor, a cousin of the Duke of Westminster, half brother of Lord Ebury, one-time grouse hunter, and treasurer of the Harley Street Ball. He is also public relations adviser to Polly Peck.

"Asil has telephoned me this evening," said Mr Grosvenor, as a murmur of expectation swept through the crowd. "He has said very emphatically that he has every intention of fulfilling his pledge."

A gasp was heard and the room filled with applause. This was fighting talk.

Even an apparent jibe by David Jacobs, the radio personality, could not dampen the crowd's enthusiasm. "Some of my best friends are bankrupts," he told the assembled guests, during a speech on behalf of the Spastics Society.

As the speeches gave way to

dancing and cabaret, Mr Nadir's name was still on everyone's lips. "He was due to conduct the auction, you know," said one disappointed guest. "I have it on reliable authority that he will put in an appearance later," whispered another.

The ball, which is the fourth to be held and has become the social highlight of the year for London's medical elite, was hosted by Lady (Anna) Brocklebank, a distinguished GP, who is known for her exotic taste in clothes.

Had Mr Nadir turned up for the £90-a-head show, he could have sampled the musical delights of the Temperance Seven or Bogol's discotheque, or perhaps been sketched by Sarah Thompson, the artist. Jane the palmist could also have divined his future.

Despite the turn of events, the event

still managed to raise £30,000 for charity. But, had Mr Nadir taken charge of the auction, money might have flowed more easily.

"The way the City is at the moment, we did not raise as much as we hoped," said Caroline Cuffe, who helped organise the event.

Mr Nadir's generous pledge, however, may cause a frown or two at BZW Securities, which launched bankruptcy proceedings against Mr Nadir on Thursday, a matter of hours before the ball was due to begin.

The company claims it is owed £3.6 million for shares in Polly Peck, bought by Mr Nadir prior to their suspension.

"I don't think we can comment on this," said a BZW spokesman. "We have pressed him for repayment. He has not, in fact, paid and we took the course of action we did."

## Dan Air half-time loss grows as operating surplus is wiped out

By JONATHAN FRYNN

DAVIES & Newman, the owner of Dan Air that last week announced a last-ditch bank rescue package for the group, has unveiled pre-tax losses of £18.7 million for the first half of the year. The shares slumped 35p to 115p on the news.

The company traditionally makes first-half net losses, although it would still expect to record an operating surplus. But the 1990 first half saw a £2.2 million operating loss, against an £8.7 million profit last time. In both years, above the line charges such as depreciation, aircraft hire charges and interest totalled about £17 million. Last year, the company recorded an interim pre-tax loss of £7.7 million. No interim dividend is being paid, after a 4.5p payout last time.

Fred Newman, the outgoing chairman, said the company's charter activities "have been adversely affected by escalating costs which, together with aircraft over-supply and a decrease in the number of people taking package holidays, have seriously eroded margins". Overall, passenger numbers in the period were 13 per cent up on last year.

The results will offer little comfort to the consortium of banks that last week agreed to extend the company's existing facilities by £30 million to £70 million. The group is in breach of its loan covenants, but has agreed to pay a financial "support" fee.

The company's rescue will be the responsibility of David James, who joins as chairman and chief executive on November 1. Among his immediate problems will be implementing a review of the group, to include the sale of its engineering division and a cut in the number of aircraft in the charter division.



Rescue responsibility: David James, soon to be chairman of Davies &amp; Newman

## Two jailed for £1.5m frauds

TWO men who defrauded building societies out of almost £1.5 million in mortgage frauds were jailed at Southwark Crown Court yesterday. Nasrullah Khan of Sedley Taylor Road, Cambridge, was sentenced to five years and Sarjit Singh Sagoo of Eatonville Road, London SW17, to two years.

They had been convicted of conspiring with a solicitor, David Wilner, and others to procure by deception the execution of valuable securities, namely cheques and transfers, in connection with mortgage advances. They pleaded not guilty.

Wilner had previously pleaded guilty to the charge and two other similar conspiracies and was sentenced to a total of two years imprisonment.

Sagoo was also convicted of the execution of a valuable security by deception in April 1989, involving a Woolwich cheque for a £120,000 mortgage advance, and in March 1989 of obtaining a Halifax cheque for a £64,000 mortgage advance.

## Delyn designs help lift interim profits

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

salads, drinks, and fresh foods for supermarkets, and had widened the customer base.

He added: "While this is a period of uncertainty, we are confident that our commitment to product quality and added-value service will ensure we maintain our leading position. Ninety per cent of our sales are to the food and drink industries... areas offering greatest growth opportunities." The shares rose 1p to 56p.

DELIN Packaging, the Welsh manufacturer of plastic packaging for food, raised pre-tax profits from £305,000 to £313,000 in the six months to August 8. Sales rose from £5.09 million to £6.5 million. Earnings were static at 2.42p a share and the interim dividend is unchanged at 0.45p.

Paul Norman, the chairman, said the company had strengthened its design side. This had led to the launch of new products for packaging



Package deal: Paul Norman with a Delyn wine case

## M Hanover hints at cut in dividend

MANUFACTURERS Hanover Corporation has hinted at a cut in its dividend to save money amid the growing gloom in the American banking industry.

"In a meeting with bank analysts, Peter Tobin, chief financial officer, said the bank was addressing its dividend policy, which at about \$3.28 a share amounts to a dividend yield of 16.4 per cent."

## Eagle Star move

Eagle Star Insurance, the BAT Industries subsidiary, is considering selling Eagle Star France, its loss-making French general insurance company, but intends to retain a management and development office in Paris to further its European business. Lehman Brothers International is to advise on the possible sale.

## News Corp post

The News Corporation, the international media group that owns The Times, has appointed David Devoe, who became chief financial officer in September, to the main board. Mr Devoe joined News Corp in 1983 as group internal auditor.

## Berisford Leasing sold for £5.8m

By MICHAEL TATE, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BERISFORD International, the stricken food to financial services and property group, is selling its leasing business, Berisford Leasing to Irish Intercontinental Bank for about £5.8 million. The move will also remove about £29 million of straight debt from the Berisford balance sheet.

Berisford Leasing, which provides finance for various equipment to industrial and commercial concerns, has a loan book of about £140 million, although £111 million of this has been block discounted with a number of banks.

As part of the arrangements Berisford International will lend £10 million to the leasing company on completion to

cover potential under-provisioning.

The deal does not include Berisford Leasing's subsidiaries, comprising contract hire, consumer finance and trailer rental. Discussions on the disposal of these activities are said to be reasonably advanced.

The financial services operations, all for sale, are thought to have a value of between £80 million and £90 million. It is still hoped that most will have gone by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the programme for the disposal of British Sugar is said to be proceeding on course, with initial offers from prospective purchasers expected soon.

## Deal for independent miners in danger

By ROSS TIEMAN

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

CLAIMS for damages over past payments could prove a stumbling block in talks aimed at achieving a better deal for independent coal miners.

The South Wales Small Mines Association (SWSMA) is believed to be seeking up to £50 million in damages from National Power, the generating company set for privatisation next year, over past discriminatory pricing.

The figure is a sharp reduction from the £130 million originally asked for by SWSMA. But it is more firmly based, being linked to improved prices tabled by National Power during talks.

"Negotiations are at a delicate

stage," Rhys Jefferys, chairman of SWSMA, said.

Separate, but simultaneous talks are taking place with the National Association of Licensed Opencast Operators (Naloo) and the Federation of Small Mines of Great Britain.

Across the table at the department of energy-sponsored discussions sit the main coal buyers: National Power and PowerGen, and British Coal.

The independent miners, who produce 2 million to 3 million tonnes a year, are enraged by the three-year contract signed this year between British Coal and the generating companies to underpin the power privatisation programme.

It sets a price averaging £43 tonne for British Coal's output, while independent miners receive just £30

atonne. Two weeks ago the generators offered the independents £37 per tonne and gave them until yesterday to accept. That deadline has been extended until November 9 after revisions to the terms of the deals offered.

While the Welsh independents are balking over damages, the opencast miners' group is also at odds with British Coal over the £7 a tonne licence fee that it is obliged to pay the state-owned mining company.

Naloo appears determined to win a cut in the licence fee to a level which it believes allows it to compete on price with coal mines overseas.

Separate talks are also under way between Scottish Power and Scottish independent miners, who supply a significant proportion of its needs. No

deal has yet been tabled by the Scottish generating company.

The independent coal producers have complained to the European Commission about discriminatory pricing in the United Kingdom and the way the industry is regulated.

They believe they have a strong case. Young Group, the Durham opencast mining group, has included a clause in its latest three-year contract with British Coal that will enable it to obtain new terms if the commission rules in the independents' favour.

Because the generators have a three-year contract for British Coal to supply most of their needs, and the generators are anxious to take advantage of low-cost imports, the independent miners are in danger of being squeezed out of the British market.

## Notice to existing borrowers.

## Mortgage Interest Rate Change

With effect from 15th November 1990.

The Hill Samuel Personal Finance Mortgage rates will be

14.95% HSMR (1)  
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Hill Samuel Personal Finance Limited, NLA Tower, 12-14 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3AB

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "هذا من المال"



## Nomura in \$1bn talks with RTC

From John Durie  
in New York

NOMURA Securities is negotiating to buy \$1 billion in commercial lines from Resolution Trust Corporation, the main American savings and loan regulator.

The move is the first main indication of renewed Japanese interest in participating in the American savings and loan clean-up and is a boost to the administration.

In recent months, Japanese interest in American bonds has waned. This year, foreign interest in American markets has dropped with present indications showing a net withdrawal of more than \$20 billion in funds from American capital and equity markets. Last year there was a net inflow of foreign funds of \$80 billion.

American investors have also been investing more offshore as world investors look to higher interest rates in Japan and West Germany with less interest in the struggling American economy.

Spokesmen for both Nomura and RTC declined comment on the talks.

RTC has worked previously with Japanese investors with Greenwich Capital Market, a subsidiary of Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan.

Nomura, which has not shown interest in thrift-related assets previously, in May repurchased \$1 billion in loans from American banks including Citicorp and Chase Manhattan, selling them through a Dutch subsidiary to Japanese, American and British institutions.

RTC has \$165 billion in assets, 70 per cent of which are in financial securities.

## Conrad loss

Conrad Continental, the leather clothing and fashion accessories company, has axed its interim dividend. Last time it paid 1p. The group dived to a pre-tax loss of \$469,000 in the six months to end-June, compared with profits of \$309,000. Turnover fell from \$5.85 million to \$4.36 million. There was a 3.55p loss per share, against earnings of 1.49p.

# Brent Walker value falls under £10m at low point

By Michael Tate  
Deputy City Editor

THE value of Brent Walker, the leisure group, slumped to less than £10 million at one point yesterday, amid speculation about its financial status.

Shares in Brent Walker, whose interests range from the Brighton Marina to the William Hill betting chain, collapsed from an overnight 72p to 18.5p, recovering to 45p. At one stage this year they traded at 376p, valuing the business at £188 million.

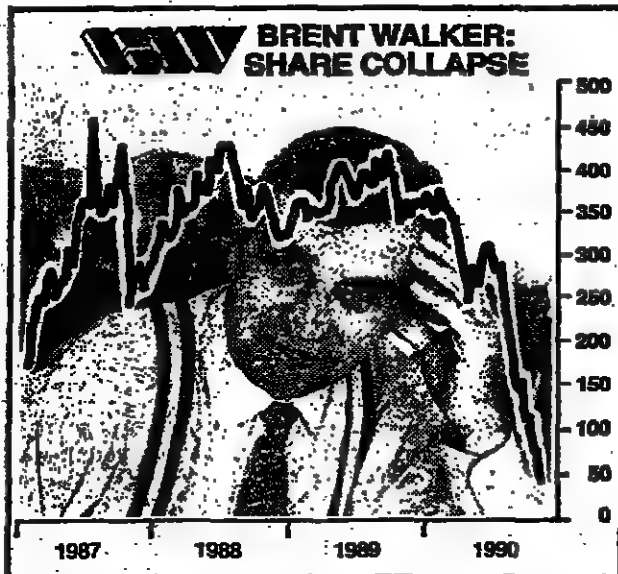
The rumours were just some of many that were fanned back into life after the Polly Peck International collapse and which are now becoming a serious problem for the International Stock Exchange authorities.

As P&O confirmed it had sought a stock exchange enquiry, reports were surfacing that the Serious Fraud Office was seeking to interview Michael Ashcroft, chairman of ADT. This was denied by the company, which also wants share dealings investigated. Companies with serious debt problems are a prime target for such rumour-mongers, and Brent Walker fits the bill. On Thursday evening it was spotlighted by ITV's *The City Programme* as a company under pressure.

Brent Walker's debt problems are well documented. The interim statement published last month showed net debt at £1.15 billion and a gearing ratio that would be 112 per cent if not for the novel off-balance sheet financing of the William Hill acquisition.

It would rise to 130 per cent if the £160 million claim against Grand Metropolitan in connection with the William Hill deal is not upheld. An independent arbitrator is to be appointed while Grand-Met's writ in connection with an unpaid £50 million has yet to come before a judge.

Worries have increased with Brent Walker's inability to place its £103 million convertible issue. Its advisers insist that details of the issue will be sent to shareholders on Monday, the last possible date. The stock has been



firmly placed but it is still not clear with whom. What does seem almost certain is that it will not find many takers among the institutions at the clawback stage.

The share price slump was said to have been sparked by one institution which, already suffering heavy losses on its Polly Peck holdings, approached Smith New Court, Brent Walker's broker, to sell a large line of stock, "at any price".

A bout of what was described as panic selling followed, which was only

stopped after Smith New Court moved into the market to support the price.

The telephone lines between the stock exchange and Smith New Court hummed, but the broker rejected the suggestion that the shares should be suspended.

Smith New Court insisted that no new information was about to be published, and that it was not aware of any event that might be causing a false market.

Its assurances satisfied the stock exchange, although a routine investigation into yes-

terday's share dealings will be undertaken.

Meanwhile, ADT rejected suggestions, contained in a House of Commons question tabled by Rhodri Morgan, Cardiff West MP, for Monday, that its chairman was the subject of an enquiry.

"Neither ADT, its chairman, nor any of its directors have had any contact with or approach from the Serious Fraud Office," according to the ADT statement.

Indicating that it had crossed swords with Mr Morgan before, ADT said it "will not be distracted by the abuse of parliamentary privilege in attempting to smear ADT or its chairman".

The statement added that trading in ADT's core divisions was "up to expectations" and that the balance sheet "remains one of the strongest of any service company".

The company said it was asking the stock exchange to investigate dealings in ADT shares in the time just before adverse market speculation. ADT shares dipped 5p to 103p.

The company announced it had taken advantage of the slide in the share price to buy 4.5 million of its own shares. "It will continue to use market opportunities in circumstances that ADT sees as advantageous to its shareholders," it said.

The EC demands that Japan abolish quantitative restrictions and cut import tariffs in three sectors: processed food, fish products and leather.

The restrictions are costing EC producers \$3 billion a year in lost exports. Mr Krenzler said, "We pleaded strongly that Japan push forward with more market opening. Only this would create a favourable climate to solve other problems such as auto imports into the EC after the single market in 1992," he said.

The question of EC imports of Japanese cars is the thorniest issue between the two sides, so sensitive that neither Mr Krenzler nor Japanese officials would give details of informal negotiations on the subject.

The EC is divided on the issue, with France, Italy and Spain demanding restrictions on imports after 1992. Germany and Britain advocate a more liberal policy.

Sources at Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Japan argued that trade issues should be dealt with at multilateral trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Sterling: seeking source

## P&O requests investigation

PENINSULAR & Oriental Steam Navigation, hit by further selling of its shares in the London market, confirmed that it had asked the International Stock Exchange to investigate its share price movements.

The announcement came as a warning shot across the bows of a possible ring of "short sellers", or professional bear raiders, who have been driving down the price by encouraging speculation about the company.

P&O, led by Sir Jeffrey Sterling, has asked the stock

exchange to seek the source of the talk, which it said was "totally untrue and without foundation". One of the rumours P&O had to deny was that the Serious Fraud Office had raided the company.

Although the stock exchange does not comment on its investigations, it is understood that the request is being taken seriously and that dealings in the shares are being subject to close scrutiny.

In the market, the shares had another volatile day, closing 4p higher at 489p, after falling 24p on Thursday.

Sterling: seeking source

## Japanese trade barriers under fire

From Reuters in Tokyo

A SENIOR European Community official has denounced Japanese trade barriers, saying they cost European producers \$3 billion a year.

Lack of Japanese action to remove the barriers could hurt Japan's car exports to the EC, said Horst Krenzler, director-general of external relations and trade policy, after two days of talks with Japanese officials on trade, economic problems and science and technology.

Mr Krenzler said the EC's chronic trade deficit with Japan was intolerable and the Japanese response at the talks had been disappointing. No concrete steps had been taken to remove Japanese obstacles to imports, he said.

EC figures show Japan posting a trade surplus with the EC in the first nine months of this year of \$13.1 billion, against a surplus of \$19.8 billion in 1989.

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Sterling: seeking source

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Asset value slides by 10% at RIT Capital

RIT Capital Partners, the investment trust that was spun out of J Rothschild Holdings two years ago, reports a 10.6 per cent fall in its fully diluted net asset value to 117.1p a share during the six months to September 30.

However, it does not include a £21 million, or 8.5p a share, gain on the recent gold-for-timber asset exchange involving Cavenham Forest Industries in which RITCP had an option to buy 15 per cent. This has now been exchanged for a right to buy 7 per cent of Newmont Mining. RITCP also reports improved half-year pre-tax profits of £8.3 million (£5.5 million), though the difference is mainly accounted for by dealing profits of £2.1 million, against a loss of £357,000 last year.

### Conroy issue CPU down as interest rises

CONROY Petroleum and Natural Resources, the Dublin mining company, has raised £3.8 million (£3.45 million) through a share placing to help fund the development of the Galmoy zinc mine in County Kerry. The new shares were placed in London and Dublin at 90p sterling each. The existing USM-quoted shares traded 4p lower at 92p.

### Cadbury sweet buy

CADBURY Schweppes, the confectionery to soft drinks group, is buying Griffin's confectionery business from Britannia Brands NZ, a New Zealand foods group, and selling its Hudson biscuit operations to Britannia. In addition to the swap, Cadbury Schweppes will buy Britannia a net consideration of NZ\$2 million (£625,000).

Griffin's confectionery is the brand leader in New Zealand with 52 per cent of the market in packaged sugar confectionery. Estimated sales were NZ\$38 million last year.

### Craig & Rose German steel deal for Itoh

CRAIG & Rose, the Edinburgh manufacturer of paint and varnish and supplier of wallcoverings, lifted pre-tax profits from £40,000 to £42,000 in the six months to end-June, on turnover up from £2.69 million to £2.8 million. Earnings edged ahead from 7.45p to 7.51p a share. The company has maintained the interim dividend at 2p.

### ENI's stake rejected

THE uncertainty over Enimont, the Italian joint-venture chemical company, in which Montedison and the state-owned ENI group have 40 per cent each, continued after Montedison said it would not buy ENI's 40 per cent stake.

Raul Gardini, chairman of Montedison, said he could not accept the conditions offered by ENI because his freedom to manage the company would be severely constrained. Shares in Montedison closed 3.3 per cent down at 1,286 lira, while Enimont fell 6.3 per cent to 1,171 in Milan.

## Hundred jobs go at Plaxton



Fighting weak demand with a new range of buses for Europe: David Matthews, the chairman of Plaxton

PLAXTON group, Britain's biggest luxury coach-builder, is cutting 100 jobs at its Scarborough works in North Yorkshire (Ross Tienman writes).

The job losses are the latest in a growing shake-out in the bus and coach-building industry in response to plummeting demand.

Walker Alexander, a bus-builder in Falkirk, Scotland, has just shed 96 of its 700 workers and talks are underway with unions at Volvo Leyland, in Leyland, Lancashire, on how to respond to deepening losses.

Plaxton, which with 1,000 employees was Scarborough's biggest employer, declared 50 redundancies this summer.

Fifty more jobs were only preserved because workers agreed to job-sharing.

David Matthews, the chairman of Plaxton group, said: "High interest rates have resulted in a reduction in demand. Coaches are capital goods and the recession in the capital goods business is serious."

Last year, Plaxton produced 700 coaches, selling for £100,000 to £140,000, and accounted for half of all British luxury coach sales.

This year Mr Matthews says he expects to sell "400-500" coaches of completed but unsold vehicles at the Scarborough factory have doubled from six months' production to three months' output. Never-

theless, Mr Matthews insists that Plaxton, a diversified group which includes Henlys, the car distributor, among its assets, still has a strong balance sheet.

To combat the prolonged weakness in demand for coaches and passenger service vehicles, Plaxton had developed a range of service buses with 40-70 seats, including double-deckers, aimed at European markets. The new range will be launched next year. Mr Matthews is trying to hold on to skilled workers until then.

Plaxton has also given vociferous support to the Bus and Coach Council, the bus operators' group, in its campaign to win recognition for

the bus as the ideal solution for problems of urban congestion.

According to experts, the average British double-decker is 14 years old and London's Routemasters are about to celebrate their 30th birthday. A BCC spokesman blamed "pitiful" rates of return for underinvestment in modern vehicles.

Four-day working will start next week for assembly workers who produce electrical goods at three Ashley Rock factories in Ulverston, Cleator Moor and Barrow, Cumbria. The company employs 800 people. Two weeks ago, it announced 66 job losses because of a 20 per cent fall in demand.

## Eurotunnel loan deal signed

THE last of more than 200 bankers have signed an additional £1.8 billion loan agreement with Eurotunnel. The signing opens the way for a £530 million rights issue, which the Anglo-French group is anxious to launch as soon as possible to beat the government's electricity privatisation issue next month.

The pathfinder prospectus for the electricity distribution companies is due to be published next Friday. Eurotunnel shares, which have climbed from 388p to 485p this month, eased to 475p.

## GR decline

GR Holdings, the sheepskin to health club group, made pre-tax profits of £1.62 million for the year to end-June, down from £7.26 million. Last year's bumper profit was due to a £5.6 million one-off contribution from property trading. Earnings per share were 6p (34p). The final dividend is unchanged at 1.75p but a 30p special dividend was paid last year reflecting the extraordinary profit. Dividends for the full year are 2.15p (32.15p). The shares were unchanged at 120p.

## Clayton down

Shares in Clayton, Son & Co (Holdings), which makes bulk storage tanks, lost 12p to 128p after a decline in pre-tax profits from £115,000 to £17,900 for the six months to end-June. After taxation of £22,400 (£18,500), there is a loss of 0.18p per share (3.81p profit). The interim dividend is increased to 2.5p (2.2p).

## Usborne slides

Usborne, the agricultural to property group that was formerly Feeder's Agricultural Industries, reports a slide in pre-tax profits from £1.26 million to £739,000 in the six months to end-June. Earnings per share slip from 1.31p to 0.76p, although the interim dividend is maintained at 0.5p.

## Aberfoyle falls

Pre-tax profits at Aberfoyle Holdings, the Zimbabwean manufacturer, farmer and investor, fell from £1.54 million to £574,000 in the six months to end-June. Earnings per share dived from 1.35p to 0.39p. Again, there is no interim dividend.

## FR director quits

Allan Hendry has resigned as an executive director of FR Group, the aviation and electronic products group. His resignation follows the appointment of Gordon Page as deputy chief executive and as director responsible for British manufacturing.

## Duopoly review likely to benefit telepoint system

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

TELEPOINT, the one-way radio telephone system, could benefit from the government's duopoly review, expected to start in a few days.

Industry experts believe the trade and industry department may consider licensing telepoint as a two-way service on which subscribers can receive and make calls. The duopoly review is likely to focus on how to increase competition in residential telephone services.

Telepoint base stations at the end of residential roads and capable of switching a customer on to a land network

could be one way of increasing choice, say experts.

John Dodds of BYPS, owned by Barclays Bank, Shell and Phillips and one of the four telepoint companies, said handsets were capable of handling two-way calling and delivering - what is called Community Telepoint.

Christine Sidebottom, the marketing director at Phonepoint, which is majority-owned by British Telecom, said the company believed that being licensed for two-way services was a "question of when, not if".

The licensing of two-way

telepoint would also assist the technology in becoming more of a mass market system, as was originally envisaged when the service was launched last year.

Such a move would also spur companies behind such services to make base stations more widely available in the high street and in public places.

So far only 5,000 to 15,000 people are subscribers to the four consortia running networks and growth has been slow, despite predictions by the industry of 3.5 million customers by 1995.

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## Turning over new leaf with instant tea

By Ross Tienman  
Industrial Correspondent

BILL Brodie is about to launch perhaps the most revolutionary attack on entrenched British taste since Sir Francis Drake returned from Latin America with a sack of potatoes.

On December 1, he will mount a £4 million campaign to persuade the nation to buy instant tea.

There have been previous attempts to tamper with the national beverage, in the interest of making money, but Mr Brodie's Typhoo QT is different. It is, he claims, the first "complete" instant tea, containing dried milk as well as dried tea.

Mr Brodie, managing director of Premier Beverage Products, part of Hillsdown Holdings, the food-to-furniture group, is enthusiastic about the tea. Premier has



spent \$5 million on equipment in its factory at Knighton, Shropshire, to produce it.

He said: "I use it myself, particularly in the morning when I am in a bit of a hurry."

He is not alone. The product is being launched after a successful 18-month test market in the Central Television area in the Midlands. But it

may not be easy. Tony Camp, marketing manager at Premier, admitted: "There was a wall of suspicion at the prospect of an instant tea, but there was an overwhelming demand for such a product."

Typhoo QT has already been re-formulated once in response to doubts expressed at test tastings. Premier said that in the most recent survey of "nearly 1,000 tea-bag-using housewives" in areas of soft, medium and hard water, 90 per cent rated the product "good/very good". About 76 per cent said they would buy it again.

Premier has more than consumer prejudice to overcome. Unilever, rated number one in Britain's £620 million annual tea market by Premier, has PG Instant already on sale. Unlike Typhoo QT, it requires the addition of milk.

Mr Brodie said: "We are not trying to take away from the

traditional tea market." Premier, with brands such as Fresh Brew, Ridgways and Melrose in addition to Typhoo, already claims to provide 23 per cent of the nation's cups.

Instant tea is expected to expand tea consumption, but substitution is quite possible. When tea bags were introduced in the Sixties, sceptics thought they would never catch on. Today, they account for 80 per cent of tea purchases.

Other instant hot drinks have scored some notable successes in recent years. Instant chocolate drinks and soups are now big sellers.



2,400 before moving higher.  
 ● Tokyo — Stocks closed down as a weaker yen and higher oil prices spread bearish sentiment. The Nikkei index closed down 346.99 at 25,005.64.  
 ● Frankfurt — Prices dropped 2.7 per cent in nervous trading. The Dax index ended 40.53 down at 1,457.05.  
 (Reuters)

Vol 10-31 Case 0 \* Estimated pond disease weight

【 151 頁 】



## INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

er Mr. Ashcroft had been on plasterboard prices during

**ADT, the Michael Ashcroft industrial services group, saw its shares go down after the news that Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, had tabled a House of Commons question, asking whether**

FT: AANKIND	997.17 (-11.93)	Berlays	348 1/2p (-11p)
FT: "500"	1102.12 (-11.94)	Lloyds	255 1/2p (-14p)
FT: Gold Mines	170.6 (-2.1)	Standard Chartered	237 1/2p (-13p)
FT: Fixed interest	88.78 (-0.03)	Sebe	2540 (-10p)
FT: Govt Secs	79.98 (-0.08)	Tratralor House	170 1/2p (-12p)
Surgons	19292	Brent Walker	44 1/2p (-27p)
SEAO Volume	337.3m	Euro Disney	950p (-23p)
USM (Datastream)	105.25 (-0.35)		

Dates latest trading price  
 Closing prices

4p dearer at 489p. A ring of bear raiders added the company to a collection of corporate scalps in apparent concerted action on Thursday.

**MARTIN WALLER**

Fleming Euro IT	72	-1
GR Hides	120	
Golden Vale	46	
Invergordon	133	-1
Leading Ls New	3	
Levercrest	100	
MMI	22	
M & W Pic	75	
Malaysia Capital	25	+4
Midland Radio	87	

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

[illegible]

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Stand Platform	
Tr Euro Swin	
Und Energy	
Und Uniform	
Wig Top App	
See main listing for Water	
shares	
(Issue price in brackets).	

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Margin/encumbrance %	Notice	Comments
<b>LINKS</b>						
Primary Dwp A/c	3.50	3.60	3.90	none/none	7 day	
Term Deposits						
1 day	10.06	10.06	8.48	25.00-50.00	1 mth	071-78
10 days	10.31	10.31	8.25	25.00-50.00	3 mth	071-8
1 yr	9.31	9.31	7.25	25.00-50.00	1 mth	071-8
1 yr	9.45	9.45	7.25	25.00-50.00	3 mth	071-8
1 yr	9.65	9.65	7.72	10.00-10.00	1 mth	071-8
1 yr	9.65	9.65	7.65	10.00-10.00	3 mth	071-8
1 yr	9.75	9.75	7.90	10.00-24.00	1 mth	071-7
1 yr	9.75	9.75	7.80	10.00-24.00	3 mth	071-7
<b>FIN INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS</b>						
Interest on bank of Montreal NMC	9.47	9.50	7.92	2.50%	none	031-4
1 yr	9.50	9.54	7.97	2.50%	none	0604
1 yr	8.00	8.20	4.98	2.50%	none	071-3
1 yr	9.25	9.25	7.40	1.00%	none	051-90
1 yr	8.00	8.00	4.50	5.0%	none	071-3
1 yr	9.50	9.84	7.87	2.00%	none	
1 yr	8.00	8.24	5.59	5.0%	none	071-3
1 yr	9.50	9.85	7.41	2.50%	none	031-50
1 yr	8.25	8.25	6.60	2.00%	none	071-3
<b>LOAN SOCIETIES</b>						
1 yr	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 mth	none	
1 yr - largest accounts						
1 yr	10.00	10.00	8.00	1 mth	none	
1 yr	10.00	10.00	8.00	1 mth	none	
1 yr	12.50	12.50	9.00	2.00	none	
1 yr	12.50	12.50	9.00	10.00	none	1 year
1 yr	13.00	13.00	10.39	25.00	none	90 day
1 yr - all others						
1 yr	12.25	12.25	9.80	2.50	none	none
1 yr	12.45	12.45	9.98	50.00	none	30 day
1 yr	12.45	12.45	9.73	50.00	none	60 day

[illegible]

Brook Guardian	10.90	10.90	\$ 18	5,000 mm	1 yrs	Figures for 1997
Brook Assurance	10.90	10.90	\$ 76	5,000 mm	2 yrs	Figures for 1997
Brook Assurance	10.90	10.90	\$ 55	5,000 mm	3 yrs	Figures for 1997
Life Life	10.20	10.20	\$ 67	25,000 mm	4 yrs	071 400
Brook Assurance	10.35	10.35	\$ 80	5,000 mm	5 yrs	for 1997

Sept. 90-90%	+10.9%
Base Rate	14.5%
Secured Loan	24.5%
on Card	16.5-31%

1% for holders before 2000. First 170 of interest tax free, amount assured for withdrawal of £10,000. Subsequent holdings up to £70,000 for holders re-investing proceeds of existing policies. Yields rise with interest tax-free period grows higher sums for larger sums. No life insurance.

Holiday rates	
Spain, France	£100
French, France	£100
Greek, Greece	£100
Italian, Italy	£100

FIRST TIME BUYERS				
	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
<b>LENDING SOCIETIES</b>				
as	13.80	to £75K	100	After 1yr 0.7% p.a. on
333333	12.90	over £30K	95	on endow. period
3706500				After 1% discount for 12 months.
and 734822	13.40	to 250K	95	After 2% discount for 6 months.
<b>BANKS</b>				
as	12.75	over £100K	100	1% discount after 12 months

Mtg. Sec.	12.75	over 75K	95	Rate capped until
485.5956				31 12 91

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# Portfolio PLATINUM

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No.	Company	Group	Only as
1	Amersham	Chemicals/Pet	
2	TSW	Leisure	
3	Waters Water	Water	
4	Gold Resources	Paper/Print/Adv	
5	Wolfsmeier Plc	Chemicals/Pet	
6	Woods	Property	
7	Porkins Food	Food	
8	Dela	Electronics	
9	Medeva	Industrial L-R	
10	Domino	Electronics	
11	New Canadian	Property	
12	P.A.O. (UK)	Transport	
13	Wharfedale	Industrial S-Z	
14	Stanley Leisure	Leisure	
15	Yorkshire Water	Water	
16	Seaboard	Property	
17	Harley Siddons	Industrial L-R	
18	PPG Hodgson	Industrial L-R	
19	Realis CAV	Industrial L-R	
20	Viva	Deputy Stores	
21	Robertson	Industrial L-R	
22	AAF	Industrial A-D	
23	Highland Dist	Breweries	
24	Copson PLC	Building Roads	
25	Wagon Ind	Industrial S-Z	
26	Charles Nichols	Property	
27	W.D. & H.O. Wills	Paper/Print/Adv	
28	Thames Valley	Building Roads	
29	Thames Water	Water	
30	Sifra Water	Water	
31	Anglian Water	Water	
32	Beacons Grp	Property	
33	Evans Of Leeds	Property	
34	Connaught	Property	
35	Kode	Electronics	
36	St. Vincent	Industrial A-D	
37	Gerrard Nat	Bank/Discount	
38	Dela Packaging	Paper/Print/Adv	
39	Thy Homes	Building Roads	
40	Kilwarden Brown	Bank/Discount	
41	Clarkson (H)	Transport	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

There were no valid claims for the £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The money will be added to Monday's prize.

## BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## UNDATED

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

# STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Market sombre

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 22. Dealings end November 2. Contango day November 5. Settlement day November 12. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (am) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 37)

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## BREWERIES

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## FOODS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## E-K

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## L-R

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## S-Z

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## INSURANCE

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## LEISURE

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## MINING

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## OILS, GAS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## OVERSEAS TRADERS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## PROPERTY

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## TEXTILES

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## TOBACCO

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## TRANSPORT

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## WATER

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

# Portfolio PLATINUM

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High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## PROPERTY

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
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High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
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High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## WATER

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## OVERSEAS TRADERS

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5

## PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
100	99.5	100	99.5	-0.5	-0.5



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ADDRESS

Postcode

Tel: (Office)

Date of Birth

Tel: (Home)

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## Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 38).

Share	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Weekly
1	+4	+3	+8	+2	+1		
2	+6	+4	+5	+3	+3		
3	+6	+4	+6	+2	+2		
4	+4	+6	+7	+1	+2		
5	+7	+5	+4	+1	+1		
6	+7	+2	+6	+3	+1		
7	+4	+6	+7	+2	+4		
8	+3	+4	+9	+2	+1		
9	+6	+6	+5	+2	+2		
10	+4	+6	+6	+1	+3		
11	+3	+7	+5	+1	+6		
12	+5	+6	+4	+1	+1		
13	+4	+7	+4	+2	+3		
14	+9	+3	+7	+3	+3		
15	+5	+5	+9	+1	+2		
16	+5	+4	+5	+1	+1		
17	+3	+4	+6	+1	+1		
18	+6	+5	+8	+1	+1		
19	+7	+4	+5	+4	+2		
20	+5	+3	+7	+3	+1		
21	+7	+5	+4	+1	+1		
22	+9	+2	+5	+8	+2		
23	+6	+6	+5	+3	+5		
24	+5	+3	+6	+3	+2		
25	+4	+3	+8	+2	+1		
26	+6	+5	+5	+2	+2		
27	+5	+9	+4	+2	+3		
28	+8	+3	+6	+3	+2		
29	+3	+5	+8	+3	+1		
30	+7	+3	+7	+8	+1		
31	+7	+4	+5	+1	+1		
32	+7	+2	+7	+5	+3		
33	+3	+6	+6	+2	+3		
34	+3	+4	+8	+2	+1		
35	+5	+4	+9	+2	+1		
36	+3	+7	+5	+1	+4		
37	+6	+3	+6	+4	+2		
38	+4	+7	+4	+1	+3		
39	+5	+6	+4	+1	+1		
40	+4	+6	+4	+2	+3		
41	+4	+4	+8	+3	+2		
42	+5	+4	+6	+1	+1		
43	+4	+8	+4	+3	+4		
44	+6	+4	+5	+3	+1		

# Budget action plea for silver set

By RICHARD IRVING

THE chancellor is likely to come under pressure before the Budget to help the elderly by raising mortgage tax relief on home income plans from £30,000 to £50,000.

Providers of the plans, which enable property owners to take an income from the value of their homes, believe there is enormous pent-up demand for such schemes from the "silver set" who are "house rich and income poor", but that the current restrictions and high interest rates prevent home owners from benefiting.

There are moves within the industry to lobby the government for an increase in Miras tax relief. Above the current level of £30,000, home income plans become less cost effective.

The lower age limit of 70 for most schemes is also a handicap for many retired people who would like to take an income earlier without having to sell the family home.

According to David Mathews, investment marketing consultant with Allied Dumber, the market has been less than buoyant in recent

months for a number of reasons. "Certainly against this economic background, elderly people are less likely to go ahead with a home income plan, but the bad publicity that some schemes have quite rightly attracted has done as much to deter potential borrowers," he said.

The Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation's (Laurto) decision to effectively ban its members from recommending investment bond schemes, under which the proceeds of a loan are invested in the hope that gains will not only pay off the interest charges but also provide extra income, could well inspire more confidence.

Roll-up loans, where the capital is not repaid until after the death of the borrower, are also risky. Because interest on such schemes is added each month, and is not eligible for any tax relief, the size of the loan can increase quickly.

Cecil Hinton, managing director of Hinton & Wild, and specialist in the home income plan market, is delighted at Laurto's decision. "These schemes have been unsafe and unsuitable for elderly people since they first appeared," he said.

One couple recently lost more than £10,000 in 18 months on an investment bond scheme, and another is about to face monthly interest

payments of more than £400 on a £27,000 roll-up loan taken out in December 1988.

Despite these worries, the Strood & Swindon Building Society is likely to go ahead with the launch of a roll-up loan scheme by the year-end. But unlike most home income

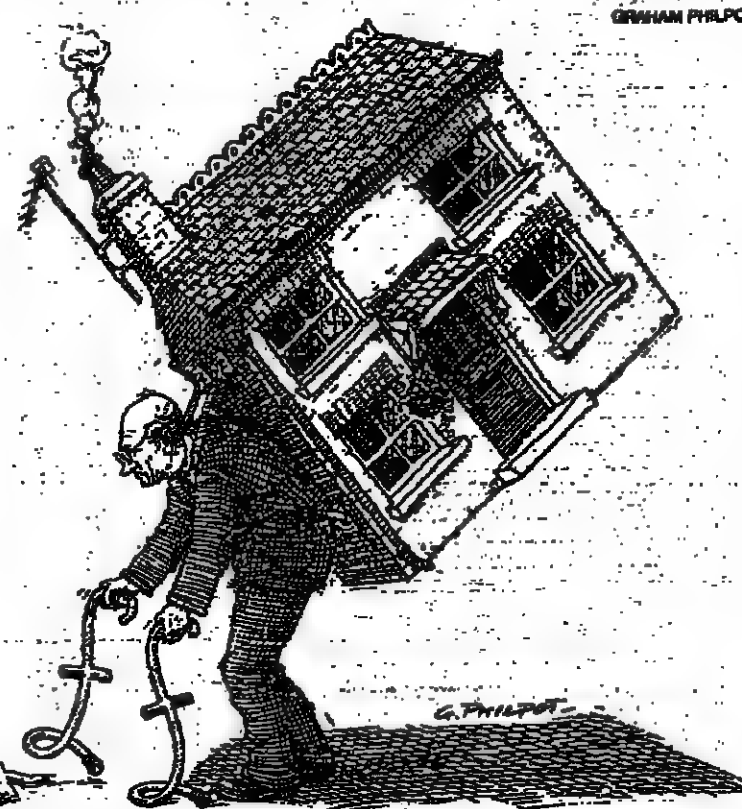
loans, borrowers will not have to take a large lump sum and pay interest on it from the

outset. They will be able to take what they need when they need it and only pay interest on what they have had. The scheme will carry an insurance policy limiting any liability on the part of the borrower to about 75 per cent of the value of the property.

Mr Hinton is happy to recommend either home income mortgage plans or home

reversion schemes. Home owners wishing to retain full legal ownership of their property should opt for a mortgage scheme, under which a single or joint mortgage can be taken out and the money used to buy an annuity providing a regular monthly income for life.

Cecil Hinton's *Using Your Home As Capital*, price £2.95, from Age Concern.



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**SAVE & PROSPER**  
THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

AGE Concern, the charity, has launched an advisory and conciliation service to act as independent broker in disputes between owners of sheltered housing and the contractors and managers who build and run them (writes Richard Irving).

Funded by developers, pri-

vate management companies and no less than ten local housing associations, the Sheltered Housing Advisory and Conciliation Service will help people solve problems with managers and developers on what they hope will be an "informal basis".

Age Concern deals with upwards of 100,000 enquiries from elderly people each year. The vast majority on issues to do with housing. Demand for sheltered accommodation will rise greatly over the next few years, with the number of people aged 85 or over expected to rise from 800,000 to 1.5 million by 2011.

According to Roger Humber, director of the House-builders Federation, new private schemes could be built at the rate of up to 9,000 a year, once the general malaise in the property market begins to lift.

Although harder to estimate, Mr Humber believes that public sector building will also increase substantially to about 6,000 units a year. This will boost to well over 50,000 the total number of sheltered homes in the country.

Sheltered accommodation appeals mostly to widows and widowers with a large family house on their own. By selling up, investing the proceeds to ensure a regular income, and moving into a sheltered flat or bungalow, residents hope to feel secure in their retirement.

But many elderly people have found sheltered homes to be far from the ideal they were promised. In almost every case, their quarrel lies with the

management company, who is responsible for maintaining the property and levying the annual service charge, which often catches residents out.

As well as paying for the upkeep of communal areas, such as hallways and gardens, residents must also pay the warden's salary and a fee to the management company.

These charges vary according to the size of the development and the range of services offered, but they can form a substantial part of the average £15 to £20 per week service charge on a sheltered home.

High management charges and steep annual increases can

leave elderly people, already struggling on a fixed income, feeling bitter. Many believe they should be allowed to change to local managers, who can often substantially undercut the larger operators. But, the managers argue, this would lead to a reduction in the quality of service.

Roger Bamister, managing director of Peverel Management Services, said: "We aim to keep management fees and broad service charge increases broadly in line with inflation."

Peverel, which manages 70 schemes for other builders as well as 280 developments on behalf of McCarthy & Stone,

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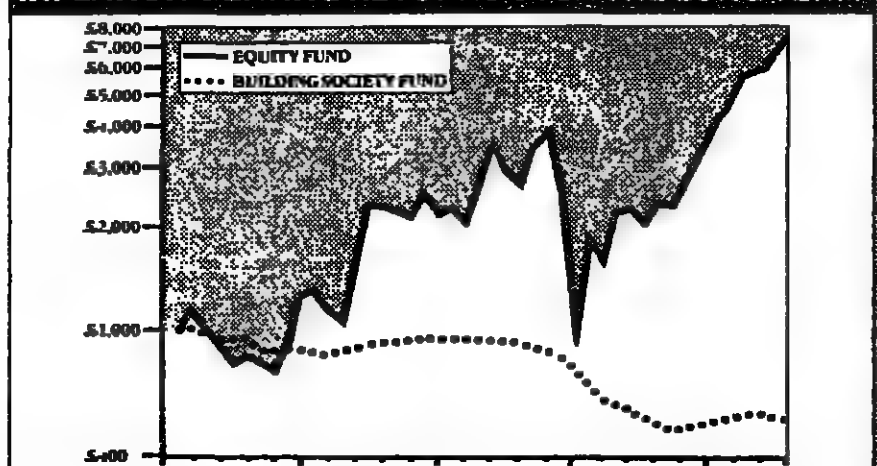
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Signature

Date

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## WEEKEND MONEY

# Winter bills fuel need to hold winning hand with credit cards

By HELEN FRIDMAN

THE 1 percentage-point cut in bank base rates may be enough encouragement for some people to regain control of the family budget. But as yet there is little tangible benefit from the reduction. Many mortgages are subject to annual reviews and other loan rates show little sign of falling.

The pressure is greatest when the large winter bills come along. With little spare cash available, some borrowing or use of credit or store cards may be unavoidable. Banks may also suggest the use of a budget account or revolving credit plan, but other options should be considered first.

Bank budget accounts were popular in the Seventies. The customer lists all expected expenditure throughout the year, such as gas, electricity, community charge, water rates, insurance and telephone bills, and then divides the total by 12. The resulting figure is the amount that should be paid into the account each month. As the bills arise they are paid out of the account, which is sometimes in credit and sometimes in debit but by the end of the year, in theory, balances out.

A number of banks still offer these accounts, such as Lloyds Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland. John Mayers of the Royal Bank said: "Nowadays, these accounts are less attractive because many household bills, such as the poll tax, insurance premiums, gas and electricity bills can be spread over the year anyway - often at little or no cost."

The bank budget account may still appeal to couples



PAULA YOUNG

who live together and want a shared household account.

A more flexible approach is the revolving credit account. With this type of scheme the amount that can be borrowed is a multiple of the amount the customer is prepared to pay in each month. The maximum multiple is normally 30. Someone who pays in £25 each month, for example, would have a credit limit of £750. A cheque book is supplied and standing orders and direct debit facilities are available to meet any sort of bill.

The advantage of revolving credit is that it allows customers to pitch repayments at an affordable level. The disadvantage is that on top of the

interest payments when overdrawn, there is either a monthly fee or bank charges on each standing order or cheque written.

Many store cards also operate on the lines of revolving credit accounts. There are several disadvantages to store cards, especially for those working to a tight budget. They tend to discourage customers from shopping around for the best bargain and the interest rates charged are usually higher than the mainstream credit cards.

The Burton Group, for example, currently charges an annual percentage rate (APR) of 38.4 per cent. Customers with more than one plastic

card may find it progressively harder to keep track of debts.

An increasingly popular alternative is the budget credit card. Barclays introduced its Assent Mastercard in March last year, which can be used like an ordinary credit card but card holders select a monthly payment of between £16 and £300 and are given a credit limit of 25 times that amount. The monthly payment date can also be chosen by the cardholder. The bank says that more than 100,000 applications have been received for Assent.

Assent has tended to appeal to younger people. "The average age of a card holder is 34

and the average credit limit is £1,000. Most of the purchases are leisure and fashion related and there is not so much usage abroad compared with ordinary credit cards," a spokesman said.

The advantage of this type of card is that customers are not restricted to one shop and it is cheaper than a store card for people who borrow. The current APR on Assent is 22.2 per cent. This is lower than Barclaycard, with its interest rate of 24.6 per cent (or 27.8 per cent if the £8 annual charge is taken into account). Since there is no interest-free period with Assent it is not suitable if the account is paid off each month.

It is possible for outstanding balances from other cards to be transferred to Assent. A similar card was introduced this June by TSB. With TSB Vantage, which is a Visa card, holders can decide both the monthly payment - between £10 and £100 - and the credit limit at 15, 20, 25, or 30 times the chosen monthly payment to a maximum of £3,000.

The current APR on Vantage is 23.8 per cent, compared with 31.3 per cent on Trustcard, the TSB's normal credit card. Interest is also paid on credit balances. This is currently 5 per cent.

For someone who wants to keep debt repayments under control, budget credit cards seem to be the most flexible approach. But as a result the repayments can continue over much longer periods than is necessary.

A customer wanting to spread payments over, say, three to six months, will find that an ordinary credit card could still work out cheaper.

## BRIEFINGS

**POTENTIAL** electricity shareholders who apply for shares through Sharelink's special service before November 14 will be able to sell their stakes on the first day of dealing for as little as 15p. Investors can pre-arrange for Sharelink to sell their shares as soon as official dealing begins, rather than a pre-selected limit, costing a maximum of £7.50, or at "best", for £5.

The Norwich & Peterborough Building Society will charge shareholders a flat rate of £12, discounted to £8, if their application for electricity shares is lodged through the society. A £1 donation will go to the BBC Children in Need Appeal.

The Halifax Building Society is launching a new service for expatriates wanting to buy a home in back in Britain. The service provides property-finding and residential letting

and management facilities, as well as the society's international expatriate mortgage, which has previously only been available to customers living in Hong Kong.

Midland Bank is to lower interest rates on its Orchard, Vector and Meridian accounts by 1 per cent from November 1. Orchard will now pay a maximum of 6.25 per cent on sums of £1,000 or more, Vector will pay 7.0 per cent and Meridian will pay up to 8.75 per cent on £2,000 or more.

The Leamington Spa Building Society is cutting rates to new borrowers a further 1 per cent to 13.5 per cent, having already lowered rates 0.9 per cent earlier this month.

A new fixed-rate mortgage set at 12.95 per cent (APR 13.80 per cent) for the first year is being made available in endowment or capital-

and-interest form by the Leeds Permanent Building Society.

The Scarborough Building Society's new Early Start Discount is now offering a fixed repayment rate of 12.25 per cent for first-time buyers until May 1991, when interest will revert to the society's prevailing variable rate.

Prospero, the direct insurer, is offering a 20 per cent discount on its newly-revised house and contents policy to customers taking out home insurance for the first time, and a 10 per cent discount for customers over the age of 50. The policy operates on a £30,000 total claims limit.

Investors who register with the Nottingham Building Society before December 7 and subsequently open a tax-exempt special savings account (Tessa) before April 5 will receive a

bonus 1 per cent interest on the first year's contributions.

Confederation Life Insurance, in conjunction with Confederation Bank, has launched a five-year Tessa account that combines the tax advantages with life cover. In the event of a saver's death, an amount at least equal to the value of the account at the time, plus additional life cover, will be paid out. Interest on the account will be guaranteed at 12.25 per cent gross.

MIM Britannia is to accept annual direct debits of £50 or more on its Rupert Children Trust, ranked fourth out of 202 UK growth funds for the 12 months to October. The £3.5 million fund already offers investors the option of either a lump sum investment (minimum £50) or a regular savings plan (minimum £10 per month).

## COME INTO SOME MONEY?

Inherited wealth or a golden handshake can be as much a burden as a blessing.

Spending all of it would leave you no better off than you were before, while investing some of it could make you a tidy nest egg.

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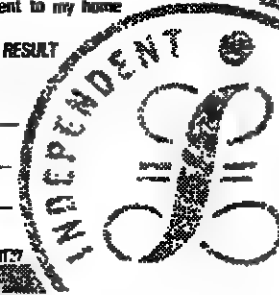
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MAXIMISER Independent Income (£5,000-£24,999) (£25,000 plus)	13.25 13.75
MAXIMISER Independent Access	13.00
MAXIMISER Independent Bond*	15.00

Interest rates are variable. \*Accounts no longer available. Exclusively for UK Residents.



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## BRADFORD & BINGLEY'S INVESTMENT RATES FROM THURSDAY 1st NOVEMBER 1990.

Scheme	Net % p.a.	Gross Equivalent % p.a.*
Ordinary Account	6.00 (6.09 CAR)	8.00 (8.12 CAR)
Deposit Account	5.50 (5.57 CAR)	7.33 (7.43 CAR)
MAXIMISER Bonus Account (£1,000-£4,999) (including full bonus)	10.00	13.38
£10,000 plus (including full bonus)	11.00	14.67
MAXIMISER Option 1 (Regular Income)	9.58 9.13	12.77 12.17
MAXIMISER Option 3 (Regular Income)	10.08 9.58	13.44 12.77
MAXIMISER Option 6 (Regular Income)	11.35 10.80	15.13 14.40
Flexible Savings Account (including full bonus)	7.00	9.33
Flexible Savings Account - Special Issue (including full bonus)	10.00	13.33
S.A.Y.E. (7 years equivalent return)	8.62	11.49
High Yield S.A.Y.E. (7 years equivalent return)	9.64	12.85
TIMESAVER Account (£1-£249) (£250-£999) (£1,000 plus)	6.00 7.00 8.00	8.00 9.33 10.67
		Gross % p.a.
MAXIMISER Overseas Account	-	12.94
MAXIMISER TAX PLAN Account	-	13.75

Scheme	Net % p.a.	Gross Equivalent % p.a.*
MAXIMISER Income* (£1,000-£4,999) (£5,000 plus)	9.00 9.36	12.00 12.77
MAXIMISER Growth* (£5,000 plus)	10.08	13.44
MAXIMISER Top Rate* (Income)*	10.46 9.95	13.95 13.27
MAXIMISER Two Year Bond* (Income)*	11.25 10.78	15.00 14.77
MAXIMISER Elite I* Elite II* Elite III* Elite IV*	10.08 (10.33 CAR) 11.50 11.75 11.93	13.44 (13.69 CAR) 15.33 15.67 15.10
Premium Access (Issue 1)*	8.09 (8.25 CAR)	10.79 (11.00 CAR)
Premium Access (Issue 2)*	8.25	11.00
Real Gold (including bonus)*	8.90	11.67
Extra Interest* Extra Income*	8.09 (8.25 CAR) 8.09 (8.25 CAR)	10.79 (11.00 CAR) 10.79 (11.00 CAR)
High Income*	9.13 (9.33 CAR)	12.17 (12.44 CAR)
High Interest*	9.58	12.77
Accum/Classmate*	6.00 (6.09 CAR)	8.00 (8.12 CAR)
Holiday Saver (including full bonus)*	7.00	9.33

CAR = Compound Annual Rate. \*Accounts no longer available. Interest rates are variable. \*The Gross Equivalent Rate assumes that Income Tax is paid at the basic rate of 25% - effective from 1st December 1990. All interest rates have been reduced. For details of other accounts please contact your local branch.

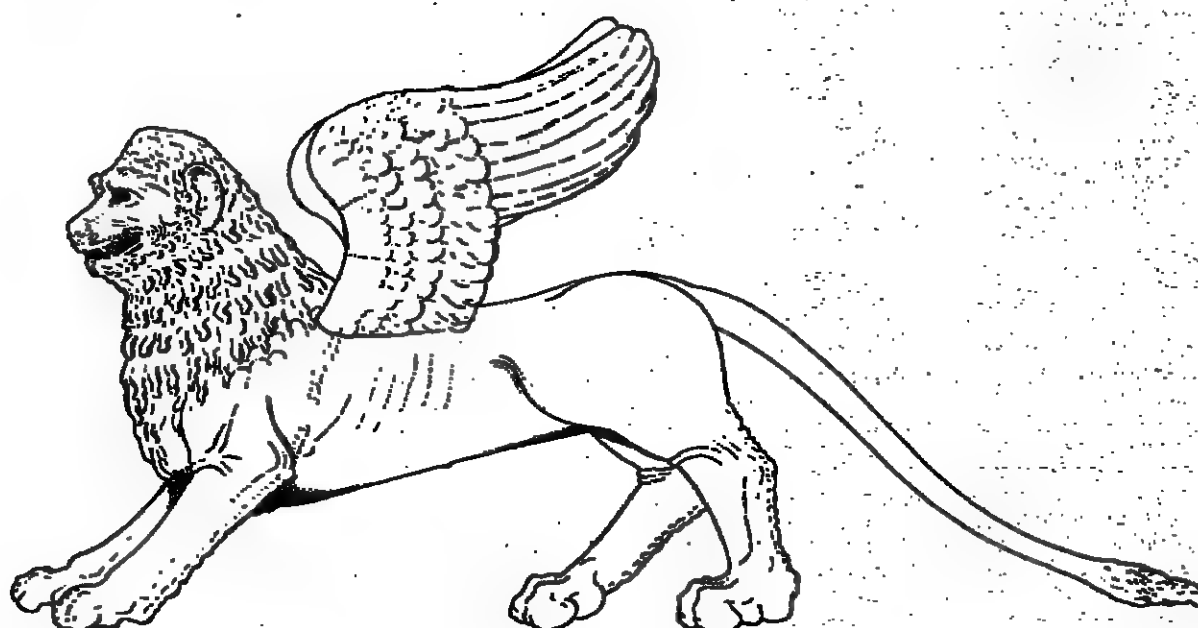


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# The Fiat Group is proud to have been associated with the recent State visit to the United Kingdom of President Francesco Cossiga of Italy



## THE LION OF VENICE

The Lion of St. Mark was brought to London by Fiat for an exhibition at the British Museum. Officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the presence of President Cossiga, 'The Lion of Venice' exhibition runs until the 13th January 1991.



## UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Furthermore, the recent endowment by Fiat for the Fiat-Serena Professorship of Italian studies at Oxford University was inaugurated this week by the Italian President.

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فلات من الفلات



## WEEKEND MONEY

## LETTERS

## Doubts about the wisdom of deposit insurance

From the professor of personal finance, City University Business School

Sir, Your editorial on October 20 called for "More (investor) protection not less." I do not wish to comment on the specific incident which triggered this remark, but there should be serious doubt about the wisdom of your general conclusion. Safer returns for investors are obviously a desirable goal; however, there is a danger of ignoring the wider economic effects of deposit insurance.

Deposit insurance can have the effect of removing the incentive of investors to monitor what is happening to their own money. As a result it can encourage investment firms to offer higher returns by opting for riskier investment strategies. Additionally, it can make fraud easier since the investor is less reluctant to part with funds and is more easily attracted by offers of

high rewards. This is an important element in the current US deposit insurance disaster.

The insurance premium has to be paid by somebody. In the UK the safe and prudent firms are being required to subsidize the marginal and potentially fraudulent. There is a general benefit to investment firms from raising confidence in the industry but this benefit is heavily offset by the cost of funding the deposit insurance scheme. An actuarially sound insurance scheme would charge relatively high premiums to the less credit worthy. Regulators do not have the appropriate incentives to monitor risk since their own money is not at stake.

Investment is a risky business. Investors should not be encouraged to believe that their capital has some kind of gilt-edged guarantee. No deposit insurance scheme should offer 100 per cent insurance

on any sum of money. The investor must take some residual responsibility for what happens to his or her money. Risk averse investors should stick to capital secure savings deposits and no insurance scheme should encourage them to do otherwise.

The 1979 Banking Act introduced 75 per cent insurance on the first 20,000 of a deposit. The Financial Services Act has 100 per cent insurance on the first 30,000 and 90 per cent on the next 20,000. The Banking Act got it right, the Financial Services Act got it wrong.

A sounder financial system will be better encouraged by less deposit insurance rather than more.

Yours sincerely,  
K. Alec Chrystal,  
Professor of Personal Finance,  
City University Business School,  
Barbican Centre,  
London EC2.



## Ernie suffers from amnesia in old age

From Mr J. R. Chester  
Sir, Thank you for an interesting article on Ernie (October 20).

I have held £500 bonds for 30 years and had nine £25 prizes in the first 20 years and one £50 prize in the last ten.

At 11,000 to one, £500 should score every 22 months. Mine almost did in the first 20 years, but not since. Your £2,835 recent investor might at best score six times in two years, with £600 won he probably did better than that.

For early investors Ernie in old age seems to suffer from amnesia. A sobering thought: invested in successive National Savings issues my £500 would be worth more than £3,000 now instead of £725.

Yours faithfully,  
J.R. CHESTER,  
30 Ingham Road,  
South Croydon,  
Surrey.  
October 20.

## Twist to Barclaycard exchange rate tale

From Dr J. R. Brocklehurst

Sir, I can add a further twist to J.M. Cross's tale (Oct. 13) about credit card exchange rates. Last year Barclaycard's excuse was that they had no control over the exchange rate set by Visa International. This year when Barclaycard offered me a Mastercard as a sweetener for the introduction of the annual fee I accepted thinking that I would gain by using the Mastercard abroad, and so offset some if not all of the annual fee.

How naive can you get?

When the bills duly arrived in September, the exchange rates on both Barclaycards (Visa and Mastercard) were virtually identical, while that on my Royal Bank of Scotland Access card (for which I pay no annual fee) was up to 4 per cent more favourable. This year's excuse is that Barclaycard is free to set its own exchange rate. Guess which credit card I'm now using? Yours faithfully,  
Dr J. R. Brocklehurst,  
Bishops Stortford,  
Hertfordshire.

## Car stolen after Royal blunder left motorist without certificate

From Mr L. E. Allwood

Sir, The article on the difficulties for drivers obtaining same-day insurance, by Sara McConnell was interesting — but worse things can happen. I was insured by Royal Insurance for twenty years satisfactorily until 1989.

Then, although my cheque

for renewal of my insurance passed through my account without question, I was never sent a certificate of insurance. Many letters to Maidstone failed to produce either an answer or a certificate.

Meantime my car was stolen in Guildford. Because I had no certificate I was unable

## No end to ingenuity of banks

From Mr J. A. Redman

Sir, There seems to be no end to the ingenuity of the banks in extracting money from their customers for the privilege of holding their accounts. Your columns regularly record charges for non-existent services and "arrangement fees" when no arrangement has been made.

My big four banker has just advised me that if I want to continue to receive my paid cheques there will now be a charge of £3 per statement sheet, which "... will go a little way towards recovering the costs incurred by the bank in providing this service."

How long will it be I wonder, before the banks introduce a charge for providing a cheque book, and a fee for each monthly statement, towards "recovering the costs incurred in providing these services"? Indeed, how far off is the day when banks install turnstiles in their branches, to collect an admission charge for entering the bank?

Yours faithfully,  
J. A. REDMAN,  
18 Sandy Lodge Road,  
Moor Park,  
Rickmansworth,  
Hertfordshire.

From Mr J. F. Hills  
Sir, Your correspondent (Mrs Ruth M Porter, October 13) complained that Barclays Bank kept almost a third of

the value of a sterling cheque drawn on an overseas bank. The National Westminster Bank can beat that: they recently deducted 53 per cent of the value of a sterling cheque sent from Paris. The amount of the item was £15.00, the commission £6.00 and expenses £1.96.

When I phoned to enquire whether there might perhaps have been some mistake, the clerk excused herself to consult a colleague. Her hand apparently did not completely cover the mouthpiece because I heard her say: "I've got a bloke here moaning about commission." One wonders whether her attitude reflected that of her employer.

Yours faithfully,  
J. F. HILLS,  
3 Kings Close,  
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

● Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

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SAVE & PROSPER THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

## Abbey the bank that can still think like a building society

From Mr R.F. Corpers

Sir, As you state in your item last Tuesday (October 16), the Abbey National acts like a bank when adjusting mortgage rates, particularly the recent reduction of 0.75 per cent compared to the more usual 0.5 per cent by other institutions.

However, the Abbey National follows the building society practice on repayment mortgages, basing interest paid on the amount outstanding on January 1 each year, depriving the borrower of interest on the capital repaid monthly. Banks use a daily basis for their interest calculations.

I suggest intending borrowers bear in mind this best of both worlds policy when

selecting their source of finance. Alternatively, concerted action by mortgage brokers, solicitors and other financial brokers informing the Abbey of their reluctance to recommend the bank to clients, might persuade the Abbey to decide to which type of institution it belongs.

Yours faithfully,  
R. F. CORPERS,  
38 Bell Crescent,  
Longwick, Aylesbury,  
Buckinghamshire.

From J. M. Agar  
Sir, I too have an Abbey National current account. I use this with Co-operative Bank Visa which is almost unique in accepting settlement of the whole monthly balance

by direct debit. After writing two unexpected cheques, I transferred funds by ATM on the afternoon before the direct debit was due, from a savings account into my current to "profit from Abbeylink flexibility" (their phrase).

I subsequently received a letter warning me I was overdrawn and threatening the consequences. Although my statement shows I had a cleared credit balance throughout of over £160 the bank has not apologised and a clerk confirmed had the sums been larger they would have "bounced".

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. AGAR,  
8 Highfield View,  
Gildersome, Leeds.

## Savings trusts take interest in long delay before dealing

By BARBARA ELLIS

REGULAR savings schemes can be far from the smoothly functioning mechanisms investors may imagine, especially where investment trusts are concerned.

Money can take up to three weeks after leaving an investor's bank account to reach its destination and any interest earned during that interval usually has to be signed away towards administrative costs.

Trust managers put most of the blame on the banks, but admit that money is transferred faster into unit trust savings plans when the same banks are involved.

A reader from Devon, who saves with Murray Johnstone's income investment trust, found that while her bank statement showed direct debits on or around the seventh of each month, the investment trust's statement recorded purchases of investment trust shares on dates ranging from ten to fourteen days later.

"Is the delay necessary and whom does it benefit?" she asked.

Majorie Calder, of Murray Johnstone, said that the terms of the savings scheme allowed the managers up to three weeks in which to invest, but in practice they dealt as soon as possible.

She explained that the £200,000 debited each month from 2,500 regular savers was held in a suspense account, with any interest going towards the cost of the scheme, as noted on the application form filled in by savers.

"This is run on a no-revenue basis," said Ms Calder. "The stockbrokers get 0.2 per cent, but Murray Johnstone gets nothing out of it."

After investigating the time taken to buy income trust shares for savings plans, Ms Calder said it appeared that the bank had run over the seven days it set for clearance of direct debits and had not been chased by the trust managers.

"We will keep a greater watch on it to make sure they keep to the minimum time not to something that is comfortable for them," she said.

With unit trust savings schemes Murray Johnstone kept exactly to time, with a dealing day set for the 16th of each month following collection of direct debits on the seventh, added Ms Calder.

Ivory & Sime asks savers buying its unit trusts to make out bankers' orders for the thirteenth of the month and aims to deal as soon as possible after the twentieth.

"It is something that is lax at the moment," said Bridget Cleverly, of Ivory & Sime. "You could be out of money for up to two weeks with our scheme."

However, the group is seriously considering changing to the direct debit system it already uses for personal eq-



Crowley: same day

uity plan investments, she added.

Foreign & Colonial operates its 17,000 savings schemes by taking in bankers' orders and cheques in two monthly cycles, but will be switching to a weekly system next year.

A spokesman said that the group tended to keep the timing of its buying somewhat vague so as to avoid alerting market-makers. Investors were told that there could be a delay of up to two weeks and were required to sign a disclaimer for any interest earned during that time.

Robert Fleming uses direct debits to collect about £500,000 from 7,000 regular investment trust savers on the fifteenth of the month. It buys shares on the following Tuesday or Wednesday. The savers sign a waiver of interest, which goes to Robert Fleming, the parent bank.

Save & Prosper, the unit trust division of Robert Fleming, takes in about £1.5 million a month from 18,000 regular savers, plus £250,000 from 5,000 holders of personal equity plans.

With the unit trusts the money is collected by standing order on the seventh and kept in a non-interest bearing client account until the sixteenth when it is invested. For PEP holders, the only material difference is that they pay by direct debit.

MIM Britannia debits £225,000 from the accounts of 1,857 investment trust savers on the fifteenth of each month and buys shares on the following Wednesday: a maximum of six days later. As with other savings scheme, savers sign away the right to any interest on the uninvested money.

By comparison, MIM collects £1.25 million from 20,000 regular unit trust savers on the first of each month and buys the units the same day, according to Keith Crowley, marketing director.

However, as long as no one was profiting from the interest on the money, investing on the day of receipt was not the prime consideration, said Mr Crowley. "Consistency is the main thing you want with a savings scheme. What matters is that people keep it going for a number of years."

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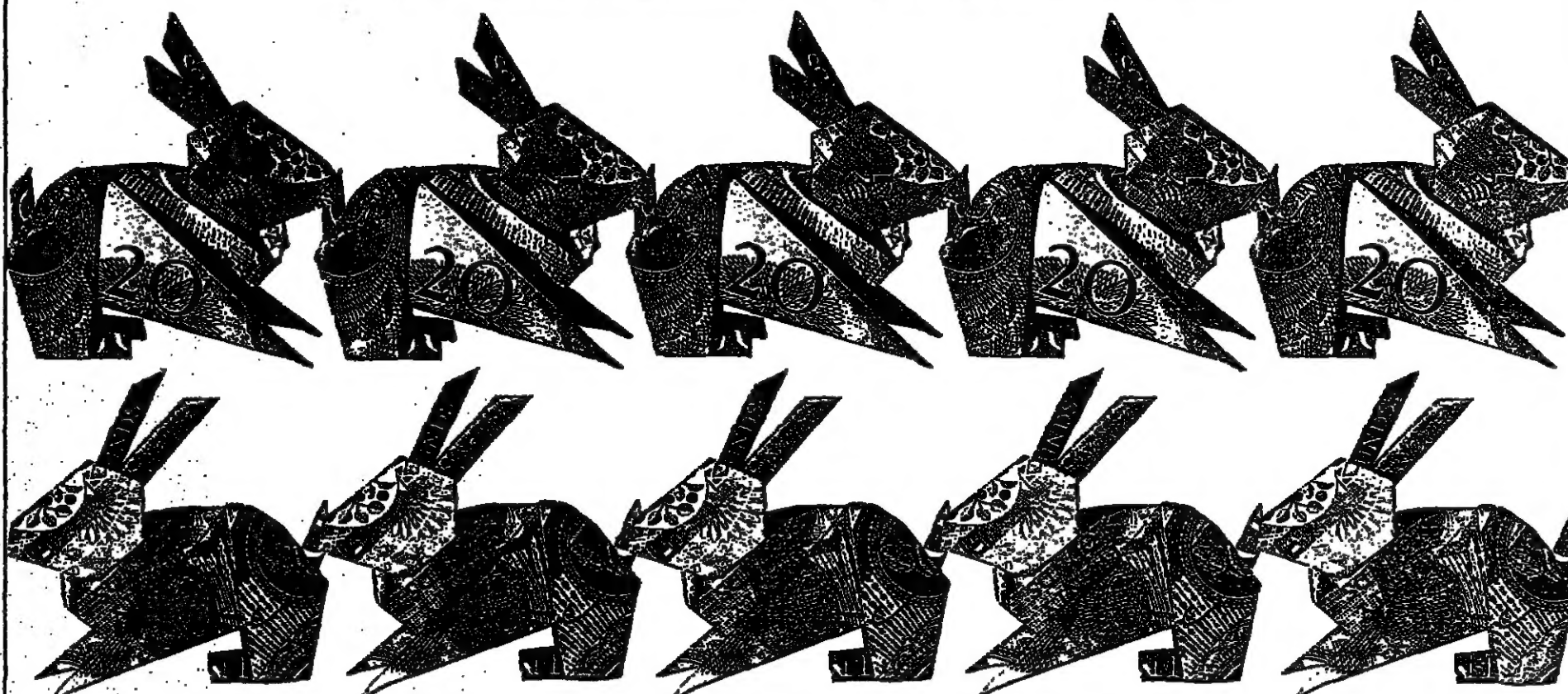
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Please remember that the value of a PEP and the income from it may go down as well as up, and the investor may not get back the amount originally invested. Tax assumptions are subject to statutory change and the value of tax relief will depend on the circumstances of the investor.

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At long last lenders and brokers who prey on people in debt, persuading them to take out riskier loans than those already troubling them, are to get their come-uppance. Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, has threatened to put firms marketing credit to those who already have serious debt problems out of business.

People faced with court proceedings over credit card debts or hire purchase payments are so desperate that they do not ask whether there is a hefty broker's fee to take out a new loan. They do not ask what the annual percentage rate of interest is. They are only concerned to solve their problems. They are easy targets for unscrupulous salesmen, particularly at this time of year.

The credit broker earns more if he lends more, so people in debt are not only offered enough to pay off their existing loans but they are often encouraged to borrow more. The monthly payments may be lower because the loan is over a longer period. The salesman may also suggest taking on an extra few hundred pounds

## High noon for the cowboy loan arrangers

"to give the kids a nice Christmas" or "have a bit of a break after all you've been going through".

A number of firms have already received letters from the Office of Fair Trading warning that if they are to keep their consumer credit licences they must encourage sensible borrowing of the right type of credit on the right terms. Those already warned are lenders and brokers who are known to use mailing lists of debtors with County Court judgments against them to sell loans and who target people with debt problems in their advertisements.

The OFT wants to see "fair and constructive arrangements" for dealing with arrears. Too often people worried by the threat of court proceedings from a credit card company or other finance house have taken on loans that put their home at risk without realising so. Courts cannot make people pay more than they can



### COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

afford, but most people are terrified of such a threat and a friendly-sounding secured loan seems the answer. The solution can be very short-lived. If the payments on the new loan are not kept up then the family home may be forfeit.

Companies may not wait long before they pursue their money through the courts. Unlike the major banks and building societies, who will try for months to help borrowers in trouble to meet their payments, other lenders tend to repossess early.

The next step is for the OFT to make a public example of a lender who encourages people to take on what they cannot afford,

or is careless of whether their customers are able to pay. The lenders have the security of knowing they can evict them if they do not pay. In the meantime they earn a handsome return on their money.

### Chase chase

Former Chase Manhattan private stockbroking clients who were sold to Stock Group at the beginning of the year are being given the run-around. Their money has been frozen since the beginning of June and it appears no one wants to help. One investor spent a

whole day on the telephone this week trying to find out why she could not obtain a claim form from the banking depositors protection scheme like other investors with money stranded in the British & Commonwealth Merchant Bank.

She was eventually told that she was at a disadvantage because she had been transferred from Chase and had not signed a letter of authorisation for Stock Group to deal for her. She could not, therefore, make a claim on the fund, which can pay out up to £15,000 per individual.

Most other investors with the merchant bank have been able to make claims since August 9 following the creditors' meeting. Some direct investors received their first payments on September 14. But former Chase clients are told to consult Stock Group.

At Stock Group a spokesman said they were not responsible for helping clients to obtain money from the bank scheme. He said

that The Securities Association, Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association and the Bank of England should help investors.

The Bank of England says it needs details from the brokers who deposited money on behalf of clients. It needs their names and addresses and information on deals done. No money could be paid until this information is sent.

Stock replies that in order to do this they need to know exactly what the bank wants and they do not.

The Securities and Investments Board says it is not its problem either, although a broker is involved. No client money has been lost. It has "only been frozen" it says. Investors who have not had access to their money for almost five months see it differently.

They are worried about the safety of their money and exhausted by the battle they are having in trying to get access to it. The excuses are wearing thin. Someone ought to make sure that they receive some money, and quickly.

## Desperately seeking Baku

By RICHARD IRVING

RELATIVES of the British royal family and peers of the realm are among a group of British shareholders about to receive more than £3 million in compensation from the Soviet government.

The investors were all shareholders of a company whose assets were seized after the Russian Revolution.

Baku Consolidated Oilfields was incorporated in 1919 and had assets in the oil producing region of Baku in Azerbaijan, now part of the Soviet Union. The company's assets were confiscated by the Red Army in the Twenties in the aftermath of the Russian revolution. The company was wound up by the High Court in London in 1943.

Although assets realised outside the Soviet Union were sufficient to pay the company's creditors, shareholders have been lobbying both the British and Soviet governments for compensation for more than 70 years.

Now, the Foreign Compensation Commission, which was set up after perestroika to



Shareholder search: Peat Marwick's John Alexander

distribute funds paid over by the Soviet Union, has authorised a payment of more than £3 million to KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, liquidator of the company.

The problem facing John Alexander, partner at the firm, is to try and locate Baku shareholders. "When its assets were confiscated in the 1920s the company had 21,000 shareholders who will now, for the first time, be entitled to receive a return on their investment. My task is to trace these

shareholders or their heirs."

Letters to shareholders have been sent to the last known addresses but many are being returned to Mr Alexander's office unopened.

Nevertheless, more than 250 people have already proved their entitlement to compensation. Anyone with shares in the company should write to: John Alexander, KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, PO Box 730, 20, Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP.

## Public help for pension private eyes

BRITAIN'S amateur pensions detectives are about to receive official help. From next April, a government-sponsored pension-tracing service will come into being, enabling the 12 million people in occupational pension plans to track down money paid into schemes since 1975 (Lindsay Cook writes).

On average, people with pension schemes change jobs four-and-a-half times during their working lives. Many lose touch with their former companies and fail to take up the benefits built up in those plans.

But next month, the government will announce details of its pension tracing service. It will be run by the Occupational Pensions Board and will deal with entitlements built up in 400,000 occupational plans. A register of all current schemes will be set up to make tracing easier.

Pensions built up before 1975 will, however, fall outside the scope of the board. Volunteer help will still be needed to trace such money.

Griff Shepherd is the Philip Marlowe of pensions, an amateur sleuth who spends months tracking down pensions for people who left jobs as long as 40 years ago. He works as a volunteer tracer for the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service, a London charity.

He tries to find any pension entitlement, however long ago it was earned. He normally has five or six cases in hand at any time, and estimates that it usually takes three to five months to find the money.

"Tracing a pension benefit is long and complicated. Many people have moved from one part of the country to



Shepherd: amateur detective

another and have no records of their pension with a company. To make matters worse, many of the company records prior to 1975 are not computerised," he said.

"I turn no one away and I manage to find a pension in about 80 per cent of cases. Sometimes I put an advertisement in the lost and found column of a pensions magazine to see if anyone knows what happened to a particular scheme."

One of Mr Shepherd's more difficult cases involved a woman who worked in Newcastle upon Tyne between 1958 and 1964. She moved to Wolverhampton and thought she was entitled to a pension for the six years she had been with the Newcastle company.

Mr Shepherd doubted that she would have a deferred pension. In

those days many people took a refund of payments instead.

"She had no written records and because she had left in 1964 I knew that employees did not always get a piece of paper when they departed. Entitlements were often in people's memories."

"The first thing I ask is if the person has kept in touch with any of their old colleagues. If such a colleague is now drawing a pension, the chances are that he or she will be able to put me in touch with the pension scheme."

In this case it was not so easy, and after exhaustive research Mr Shepherd placed a small advertisement to see if anyone knew the whereabouts of the scheme. One of the five responses correctly identified Legal & General as the operator, and Mr Shepherd was able to tell the woman from where she could claim her small fixed pension.

In most cases the trail is long and involved. "I go to Companies House and see what the receivers did in the case of companies after liquidation. They should have employed the same care in looking after the current and deferred pensions."

"I also get a lot of help from the Department of Social Security in Newcastle."

The Newcastle upon Tyne office handles claims for the state graduated pensions scheme that operated from 1961 to 1975. The records of graduated benefit entitlement often also carry the name of the company operating the pension.

Mr Shepherd was group pensions manager at Grand Metropolitan from 1970 until 1983. Since he started his

sleuthing, he has been called upon to find GrandMet pensions, and those for former ICI staff where he also worked. "It is seldom difficult to identify deferred pensions in the bigger schemes. It is with the smaller ones that disappear where the trouble lies."

Most of the people looking for pensions are approaching retirement, said Mr Shepherd, and almost all of them involve pre-1975 entitlements.

The government announced last November that it was to introduce a pensions tracing service. Neville Toller, the secretary and controller of the board, said that a draft consultation document had been published and was being substantially revised following responses.

Mr Toller said it was proposed that former employees should fill in a form giving details of the employment and pension scheme and send it to the pensions register. They would not need documentary evidence of employment to make a claim.

It would not be able to help people who have lost touch with pension entitlements built up before 1975.

"It will become an increasingly valuable tool for individuals to trace where their benefits have been preserved from 1975. As time goes on people want to know where bits of their pension are lodged. Eventually it will be possible to help people trace back pensions 30 or 40 years. But first we must ensure that all schemes lodge with the register and give details of the history of their schemes, and that all past names are recorded."

The task of putting the 400,000 schemes on computer will begin early next year.

## Lautro draws a veil over the guilty

A TOTAL of 12 life assurance and unit trust companies have been told that their sales procedures fall short of industry rules. It follows a recent check by inspectors from the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) on member companies to ensure rules on advertising brochures, salesmen's visits and telephone calls are being obeyed.

But Julia Liesching, Lautro's chief policy and administration officer refuses to bow to public pressure to name names, maintaining that the rules have not been flagrantly flouted and investors have not been put at risk. "It's all a question of balance," she says. "We will of course publish names where the disciplinary committee orders

a public reprimand or where the interests of investors have been jeopardised, but where companies have voluntarily co-operated to change questionable procedures, there is no risk to the investor so nothing can be gained by a public airing."

The disclosure comes in a week when Lautro announced the publication of an advice leaflet for investors who wish to complain at the methods used to sell them life assurance or unit trust policies.

The guide covers financial products such as endowment policies, investment bonds, unit trusts and pensions.

Disgruntled investors should first write to the compliance officer of the company or friendly society whose product was recommended,

the guide says. Under Lautro rules, the member company must arrange for the complaint to be investigated properly and a report to be made within two months.

If the complaint drags on, investors can seek the help of the insurance ombudsman. In certain circumstances Lautro may itself investigate complaints.

Lautro receive over 300 complaints each month. Those which relate to matters covered by the organisation's rules are passed on to Lautro members for action.

The new leaflet can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Complaints Department, Lautro, Canterbury House, Sydenham Road, Croydon CR0 9NE.

## Opas rules against the trustees over scoring penalties on the transfer list

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

THE Occupational Pensions Advisory Service (Opas) held its last annual meeting as a charity yesterday and reported a dramatic increase in the number of requests for help. Next year it is to become a government-funded body, but will still offer independent advice to members of pension schemes.

The main concern among the 3,500 cases referred to the service this year was the length of time taken to obtain quotes for a transfer value from an occupational pension when an employee is changing jobs, and the time it takes for a transfer to take place. Transfer values were in some cases recalculated before payment, causing disappointment.

Similar complaints came from people who decided to retire early after being given details of their pension, only to find when it was too late to change their minds that the sum would be a lot less.

In one case, a man who was made redundant in 1988 applied for an early pension from his firm's administrators. The fund administrators quoted a pension of £3,078. In April 1989, one month after the first payment of the pension was due, the man was told that "the basis of the calculation was to be adjusted to be consistent with current market conditions". The revised pension was only £846 a year.

After intervention by Opas the trustees agreed to grant the early retirement pension originally quoted, backdated to 1989.

Some of the problems arose because advice was given, in the early stages, by a member of staff who was not fully conversant with the pension scheme, said Margaret Grainger, Opas chairman.

A new problem, "experienced many times", arose from short-lived money-purchase contracted-out schemes. Once the impact of the commission had been taken into account the funds were exhausted when the premiums to the state scheme had been paid out.

Scheme members received neither additional benefits nor refunds of their contributions. Miss Grainger said that members were only promised



Referee and victim: Margaret Grainger and Maurice Carr

the product of the investment. They were not told how the administration was working.

"Individuals are not told implicitly of the front-end charges, and when they left or when the scheme folded they were not paid anything."

The cases were a cause of considerable concern. "It is numerically coming out as a high element," she said. Another serious problem was the number of companies that deducted pension payments from wages but did not hand them over to the pension scheme.

Terence Brand, deputy chairman, said: "Quite a large number of companies are wound down. Possibly the last priority is the payments to the pension scheme. The insurance companies say the trustees are responsible. Often they are in the invidious position of being employees as well as trustees."

Company pension schemes must change the way they treat early leavers or risk mass desertions. Pensions and Investment Research Consultants (PIRC) told a seminar set up to answer what is wrong with transfer values (Barbara Ellis writes).

This comes at a time when pension providers have begun to see transfers as an expanding business.

This year, only the second in which transfers from company schemes to personal pensions have been possible, switches of this kind could top £3 billion, yielding commis-



sions of £120 million for brokers and agents.

PIRC, advisers to unions and local authorities, said that transfer problems affect almost all schemes, not just a handful, and identified younger people as the main losers.

The basic defect is that pension schemes are generally designed to benefit employees who stay with one company for life, ignoring the fact that most people expect to change jobs at least once before retiring.

Law aimed at protecting job changers have proved largely ineffective, though the poor treatment usually becomes apparent only when benefits are transferred. Often ten years in one company's scheme will be worth as little as two years' credit with a new one.

In one of the cases cited by PIRC, Maurice Carr, who worked for The Observer, for ten years, was offered a transfer value of £6,426 when he was made redundant this year.

"That was less than I had paid in myself and I had not accrued one single pound of interest," said Mr Carr, who felt he could have built the same money up to £15,000 by investing in unit trusts over the same time span.

His protests to Lomrho, the parent company, drew a revised transfer value of £6,801: exactly the amount he had paid in. This was in line with the pension scheme's rule that

make a difference of about 50 per cent either way to the number of additional years granted to younger employees by the second scheme. And the variations do not even out.

Mr Davies said there were significantly more losers than winners, because in self defence, most schemes tended to adopt favourable assumptions leading to reduced values.

A further tactic that is increasingly worsening transfer values is for scheme trustees to tell their actuaries to leave out of their calculations any discretionary benefits such as extra increases in pensions after retirement.

Although this is within the letter of the law, which says that calculations must take account of discretionary benefits paid under established custom, unless the trustees specifically decide otherwise, actuaries as a profession have condemned widespread use of the right as counter to the spirit of the law.

The impact on scheme members can be considerable. For example, if a scheme has guaranteed increases of 3 per cent a year in pensions, but has used its discretion to pay an actual 5 per cent, a calculation allowing for that benefit would add 15 per cent to the transfer value.

Calling for a number of changes in the law to improve the position of early leavers, PIRC forecast opposition from the pension industry on grounds of cost, and a repeat of the dire predictions for the future of schemes based on final pay that preceded previous improvements.

## RETIREMENT

### Five key facts

1. Once you've retired, your concern is going to be how to generate income, as well as growth to provide an eventual rise in income to protect your standard of living.
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3. If you put all your capital on deposit with a Building Society and take the interest as income, the value of your capital, in real terms, must fall.
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\*Source: Government Actuary's Department.

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## WEEKEND MONEY

# Bouts of calm after wrestling with Mammon

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

## BUSINESS PROFILE

### Stanley Kalms

If Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons Group, the electrical retailer, was an Old Testament character he would be Jacob, according to Jonathan Sacks, his close friend and Britain's next Chief Rabbi. "Jacob wrestled with God and Stanley wrestles with everything."

Most of those who know him well agree that the head of the world's largest specialist retailer of consumer electronics does not suit his descriptive surname. Calm he certainly is not. The first impression one gets of him is of his enormous resource of nervous energy. He speaks rapidly, his brain sometimes working faster than his mouth. Even sitting still, repetitive gestures show that he is a man used to being constantly on the move.

"He is not a serene individual," says Rabbi Sacks. "He is not even searching for serenity. He loves argument and there is nothing like a conflict for bringing out the best in him. He is a man of contagious energy with a remarkable passion for ideas. He has a fascination with intellectual challenges which I find awe-inspiring. He likes nothing better than the clash of minds. He mellowed at 11.30pm when he had a cigar and a glass of whisky but I wouldn't say he is relaxed."

Nigel Wilson, finance director of Stanhope Properties, who worked closely with Kalms at Dixons, agrees. "Stanley sees ambiguity and inconsistency as virtues. He will argue passionately from one point of view one day and equally passionately from the opposite viewpoint the next."

Kalms readily admits to an aggressive nature but nowadays it is more professional than personal. "I'm still as aggressive as ever but I have to turn it on. It's more of an act today. It wasn't an act for the first 20 years in management but you learn you can get just as much from being nice as from being aggressive."

The aggressive side of his personality may have upset employees who felt the sharp edge of his tongue but it is unlikely Kalms would be where he is today had he not been an angry young man. Nigel Wilson says: "Stanley loves the theatre of argument. Once you realise that, and if you are a bit resilient, you can understand the shouting and name calling. He's not a person to hold a grudge. Deep down he is a very caring man. If Stanley gave you a bellocking you knew he cared."

It is hard to believe that Dixons, which is perceived as one of the most aggressive retail groups and one of the most challenging businesses to work for, started off as a photographic studio in the Edgware Road where, every Saturday, a dozen naked, screaming infants would pose on a fur rug. Kalms joined his father's shop in 1948 at the age of 16 but had been interested in business from an early age. His father funded him at nine in a small stamp business.

Neither father nor son had any photographic skills and Stanley Kalms confesses today to being unable to use a word processor. But he soon realised that the way forward was to sell cameras rather than portraits. The challenge was finding the stock. "It was a sellers market. There was insatiable demand and not much competition. I started with the advantage that

my dad had a terrifically good name and I had a lot of luck. It was all about buying, still is. I was a good buyer and worked at getting good merchandise. The breakthrough came on my first trip to the Far East in 1958. I discovered a wonderful land in Japan."

There are those in the City who believe Dixons' philosophy has changed little since the early days. It was swept along on the back of the electronics boom and has suffered in the downturns.

But although times are still tough, Kalms has a renewed vigour these days. He has come through the black patch of the last few years with his energies intact. The bleakest time for the business was in 1987 after Dixons failed in its £1.8 billion bid for Woolworths Holdings, now called Kingfisher. Dixons' profits failed to grow at their previous rates and the share price fell from over 400p to under 200p in a matter of months. There was a degree of nervousness and some senior managers left. Kalms appeared to lose confidence. Those who know him say he was deeply unhappy then.

The unhappiness of that period is illustrated by the controversy over the surveillance of former Dixons' employees. A private detective was jailed for three months in 1988 for bugging the telephone of an employee who had left Dixons to work for Comet, part of the Kingfisher group.

"It was a grotesquely offensive incident to us," says Kalms. "It was unauthorised, an excess of enthusiasm by these consultants. It certainly was not company policy. There isn't a word to describe how I felt, horrified is the understatement. It is the most aggravating thing that's happened to me in all my years of business. It was remote from us but even so I was distressed by it. It wasn't in our immediate control but nevertheless we were employing these people."

Kalms suffered all the more because of his strong Jewish ethics. His faith is extremely important to him and he has a keen sense of morality. Some say he was close to resigning over the incident.

Rabbi Sacks says the downturn in Dixons' fortunes coincided with a time when Kalms had undertaken some extremely ambitious projects for the Jewish community. There were enormous demands on his energies and he was in danger of burning himself out. In the end he reduced his community commitments. "He came through that period very well," says Rabbi Sacks.

But the problems which the business faced ran deeper than Dixons' initially acknowledged. Ironically it was the audacious £250 million bid for Currys, the electrical retailer, masterminded by a team including Morgan Grenfell's Roger Seelig and David Mayhew of Cazenove, which triggered the trouble. At the time the

bid was rightly hailed as a triumph and it threw Dixons, which was floated on the stock market in 1970, into the limelight.

But the integration of the two retailers was disastrous. Kalms admitted: "We took over a company dramatically bigger than ourselves and we made one or two fundamental errors. Of all the years we've been in business they were the most difficult. I didn't work on my instincts and allowed two groups to develop within the company."

Dixons and Currys had separate management teams and eventually became each other's biggest competitor. They had incompatible computers and when the problem was finally corrected, Currys' system was scrapped.

Kalms says: "There was a concept then called parallel retailing which shows how important it is not to listen to popular garbage. Everyone was into it, even Ralph Halpern was doing it. Nowadays I can't think of anything more nonsensical than that philosophy, but we believed in it then. It took a couple of years for the problems to come to light and a year to pull it back and create two separate identities with one management. I won't say it was too late, but time

**'There is a degree of machismo in hostile takeovers. You are dragged into the bloody arena by merchant banks. It's the wrong way and is idiotically expensive. You are driven by the arithmetic and common sense goes out the window'**

was wasted. Nowadays Dixons and Currys are complementary to each other, not competitive."

Not only did Kalms sort out the fundamental problems in his business he also set about improving his relationship with the City. "I have to admit I'd never paid that much attention to it," he says. "It was a good relationship but I'd never fostered it. Then it started to slip and I had no base." He took the chance of Kingfisher's recent £568 million bid for Dixons, which the Monopolies Commission blocked, to refocus his image. His honesty about past mistakes impressed the institutions and he has also convinced them of his future plans. Having been out of favour for some time, Dixons is now seen as one of the retail sector's best recovery stocks even though profits are set to fall this year.

But while the bid from Kingfisher has given Kalms renewed vigour, he has grave doubts about hostile takeovers. "Geoff Mulcahy and I should be ashamed of ourselves. We've now spent £40 million on a couple of little skirmishes. At the end of the day you're only talking to 30 institutions, so why spend £10 million defending and £15 million attacking. The thing is ludicrous," he says.

He is optimistic that in future Dixons will be involved in agreed mergers rather than hostile bids. "There is a degree of machismo in hostile takeovers. You're dragged into the bloody arena by merchant banks. It's the wrong way and is idiotically expensive. You are driven by arithmetic and common sense goes out the window."



Good on buying at the right price but don't ask him to work it: Stanley Kalms readily admits he is not happy with technology

He hints that if Kingfisher had been less belligerent in its approach for Dixons and had proposed a merger, the bid may have turned out differently. "Management should talk and see if they can come together. If we had spoken properly it might have made a very sensible merger," he says. He has plans to make inroads into Continental Europe in the

consumer durables market. He was initially attracted to Kingfisher by the prospect of B&Q and the challenge of Woolworths. He has also cast his eye over British Home Stores and MFI in the past. "I was keen on the DIY market originally. I wouldn't do it today, but furniture is also a business where there is compatibility."

He feels confident about the future despite several tough years ahead for electrical retailing in Britain, but there are questions with which he is grappling. "I'm not sure what sort of customer service there will be in future," he says. "Consumers haven't made up their minds whether they want price or service. They want our prices and then get irritated when they can't get as much attention as they want, but the economics don't allow for that."

Some believe he also has a problem with succession. He will stay with the business for some time yet but there is no obvious successor. At one point all three of his sons, Richard, Stephen and Paul were involved with the business but they have now left. Kalms confesses to being slightly disappointed that none of his sons will follow in his footsteps but says he is glad they have branched out.

His strong family bond is renowned in the City. The ex-

tended family, which now includes five grandchildren, meets up once a week for a meal. All 13 go on an annual skiing holiday. Kalms taught all his grandchildren to ski and says the holiday with them is the highlight of his year. His wife Pamela, to whom he has been married for 37 years, says: "He's the patriarch of the family. We all look to him. We both feel that the family unit is the most important thing." His sons all live within a mile of his Stanmore home.

"He is a very shy man," says Mrs Kalms. "I think his aggression may come from his shyness. He underestimates himself and he still gets nervous if he has to make a speech. His tolerance surprises me. The one thing he dislikes is idle chatter or distractions. He doesn't like gossip. He likes to see people contributing something."

His Jewish communal life is extremely important to him and he is most likely to socialise with Jewish academics. His passion is education; his own formal education was cut off at the age of 16 and Rabbi Sacks says he will back virtually any imaginative or innovative project.

Kalms is a wealthy man. In addition to his Middlesex res-

idence he has a flat in London's West End, where he spends an increasing amount of time going to the theatre, opera and ballet. His yacht, currently in the south of France, has a sophisticated communications system. His stake in the company is worth £6.5 million and he has private investments in property. In 1987 he was among the top ten British earners with a salary of £660,000 and though that has fallen in line with the group's profits, he earned £526,000 last year. But he has given vast amounts of money away.

Recently he told BBC's Panorama team that he had donated £100,000 of his personal wealth to the Conservative Party. In addition to funding Jewish schools, he sponsors individuals through the "Kalms Scholarships". Most of his protégés become rabbis.

Would he have made a good rabbi himself? Jonathan Sacks laughs. "He would certainly be an unorthodox one." But he rejects Kalms' description of himself as "unspiritual". "He is a much more spiritual person than he realises. There is an unresolved conflict in the heart of Stanley Kalms. I do not know what it is. I don't think he does, but it is the source of his energy. He has great things still to do and great things still to discover about himself."

## Sweet and sour taste of change

THINGS are changing in Vancouver, the heart of British Columbia, where about half the province's three million people live. Nowadays, the Chinese form the second largest community, just behind Canadians of English origin and ahead of the descendants of Scottish settlers.

There has been a considerable influx of money from the Pacific Rim, with nervous Hong Kong millionaires - and a few billionaires - leading the way. They have been followed by the Japanese, whose speciality seems to be buying up ski resorts, then South Koreans and Taiwanese. The latter paid £6 million to Bill Vander Zalm, British Columbia's prime minister, for his Fantasy Park (flowers with a touch of Disney), and so sparked a wave of big headlines, alleged scandals and mud-slinging across the political and business worlds.

Journalists from ABC, the American television network, disguised as potential investors, have secretly filmed the activities of some brokers at the Vancouver exchange, with its "penny" stocks (those under one Canadian dollar) of mining companies with gold claims up near Alaska, and even more exotic stocks in wind surf simulators and even hair restorers. ABC called Vancouver the "seam capital", which the locals found a bit rich coming from New Yorkers.

Vancouver has certainly been Canada's boom capital since the success of Expo 86, the world's fair opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales. The former, sedate lifestyle has quickened with new investment and soaring property prices. Californians flock across the border by car, plane and cruise ships with film and television

## CAPITAL CITY

ALAN TELLER IN VANCOUVER



Boom: downtown Vancouver

crews in their wake. But traditional British property interests, as represented by Grosvenor Group, owned by the Duke of Westminster, and Laing, have been overshadowed by new money from Hong Kong.

Mr Li Ka-Shing, one of the world's richest men whose interests include property, telecoms, containers, retailing and energy, has joined with two fellow Hong Kong billionaires to buy the city centre Expo site of 166 acres plus 38 acres of "water lots" for the relative bargain price of Can\$328 million (£144 million). He plans to spend £1 billion or more on 7,600 residential units, three million square feet of offices, plus parks and day care centres - the

biggest North American city development since New York's Battery Park.

Mr Li, aged 63, his sons and business associates are very much yacht people, as opposed to boat people, and are wisely covering their bets ahead of the 1997 cession of Hong Kong to China. There is a shrill life across the Pacific as they wait to see how Chinese policy towards the colony evolves. Other Hong Kong entrepreneurs and investors, comfortable though not in the same league, have bought their way into Vancouver through the official Canadian business immigration scheme: a proven assets plus a willingness to invest half in Vancouver.

Several thousand new Chinese-Canadian citizens have arrived in this way since Expo 86. The immigration authorities are raising the investment "ante" to about £160,000, but this is not expected to halt the flow into Vancouver's best residential neighbourhoods. Some English-style homes have been acquired by the newcomers, demolished and replaced by walled, modern properties utilising every inch of ground.

Among the Hong Kong chefs who have upped and left for Vancouver is the famed Lam Kam Shing, now serving his suckling pig and deep fried shrimps at the Dynasty restaurant. But Vancouver's traditional Chinatown, the biggest outside Asia after San Francisco, has attracted some different kinds of investor - members of Hong Kong's 14k triad crime syndicate, who are into protection, gambling, prostitution and "China white" heroin rather than telecoms and the like.

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### Jacob's ladder



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### Baku backers

Investors in a Soviet oil company, which was wound up in 1943, are now being asked to make claims for £3 million being paid by the Soviet government. Page 44

### Your views

A bit late for advice from Weekend Money?



Doubts about the protection offered by investor compensation schemes are expressed by the City University's professor of personal finance. The split personality of Abbey National, Erim's amnesia and the ingenuity of banks when it comes to charges come under discussion. Page 43

### Trust delay

Savers with investment trust saving schemes can face a three-week delay between the monthly payment being taken from their account and its being invested. Page 43

### Sparky offers

Cheap deals for selling electricity shares abound. The best has a minimum cost of £5 and allows dealing on day one before allotment letters are sent out. Page 41

### Help for aged

The chancellor will be asked to raise mortgage relief from £30,000 to £50,000 in the next Budget to help more elderly people raise income from their own home. Strong demand for the schemes has been curbed by high interest rates and falling house prices. Page 40

### Sheltered Aid

A new advisory and conciliation service has been set up to help owners of sheltered accommodation solve disputes with management companies. The market for sheltered housing is likely to expand rapidly over the next decade as the number of people over 85 almost doubles from 800,000 to 1.5 million by 2011. Page 40

## THE SUNDAY TIMES Britain's biggest crash

"He must be heartbroken," says a former associate. It is not surprising. Recently Asil Nadir boasted that his personal wealth was nearly £1 bn. His business was valued at over £2 bn. Now Polly Peck shares are probably worthless.

Tomorrow The Sunday Times examines Britain's biggest corporate crash.

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# Riding in with a fistful of dollars

Lindsay Cook on the trail of a company that is trying to market a scheme for British investors to buy unseen dollar coins whose value can very rapidly decline

THE "number one investment secret" in America is now being marketed in the heart of London. Certified Rare US Coins (CRUSC) has been set up this month in Piccadilly to sell gold and silver coins. It makes very grand claims for its performance.

In 10 years \$10,000 grew to \$257,000 outperforming stocks, bonds, money market, gold and real estate," it says. The company neglects to mention to new British investors that this year there have been steep falls in the American coin market and that the leading American grading house for its coins has been indicted by the Federal Trade Commission for



making false claims. Professional Coin Service Grading Inc agreed to stop certain marketing practices.

"Wall Street Journal confirms 50.6 per cent for 1989," proclaims CRUSC. It goes on to say that Merrill Lynch is placing \$75 million and Kidder Peabody \$40 million. But when questioned, Robert Mitchell, CRUSC's principal, admitted that the two American securities houses are running coin funds of their own trying to raise large sums and not investing it in the fledgling British company.

The certified coins being sold are sealed in plastic blocks. All are graded by independent grading houses. While prices rose throughout the Seventies and Eighties they have fallen "precipitously" this year according to one American coin expert and many collectors and dealers have lost money.

James Lamb of Christie's in New York said: "The market has disintegrated, almost ceased to exist. I only found out this week that the electronic trading networks, which traded these coins as commodities, have been shut. There has been an enormous loss of confidence since the indictment in August of the major grading house, Professional Coin Grading Service, which accounts for about 65 per cent of the grading business was charged by the Federal Trade Commission for making false claims in its advertising." The grading house agreed to abide by regulations laid down by the FTC. The complaints were not withdrawn and the case could be referred back to the court.

Anyone who visits the CRUSC offices will be shown a number of coins, but not the ones that they might purchase. Mr Mitchell explained to Weekend Money that the company did not carry a large amount of stock but would advise investors in this country and then buy coins in America during the following two to three weeks. But before it could do this, customers must pay a non-refundable deposit of 20 per cent to the company. The "practical minimum investment" according to Mr Mitchell is £5,000, making the "up-front" deposit, £1,000. Investments of £3,000 would be accepted, says the literature.

"For that we would recommend

one dollar coin and possibly a couple of Morgan silver dollars," said Mr Mitchell. "We would then notify our buyers in the US and they would seek out the coins we wanted to buy. It would probably take two to three weeks to get them at the right price."

Customers rejecting the coins could lose their deposit. "It has to be non-refundable because we are going into the market. When the coin is delivered they pay the remainder," said Mr Mitchell.

The company will take payment of the deposit by credit card. But some people signing the specimen application form might not realise they are committing themselves to the deposit. "Yes please forward my rare coin selection as specified below" it urges, then asks customers to select from American rare gold, American silver dollars and selected mix and to state the purchase amount.

It then asks for credit information about the customer including the number of their Visa or Mastercard credit card and its expiry date. It also asks for a signature.

The form goes on to say that CRUSC is a strong advocate of consumer protection and offers a guarantee. This states that the coins will be accurately graded by a third party independent grading



Risk warning: James Morton of Sotheby's advises consulting a dealer

service. Among the grading services used by CRUSC is Professional Coin Grading Service.

But the company admits that "grading necessarily involves subjectivity" and says that investors are free to have their coins regraded by an expert or dealer of their choice. "If not completely satisfied with the grading you may return your coins within 14 days of purchase for a full refund."

On its buy-back policy the firm says: "CRUSC's buy-back policy is not a guarantee; it is a policy. Therefore, it is subject to change. CRUSC cannot guarantee that, when you desire to liquidate your coins, CRUSC will be able to repurchase them from you at a profit."

It also gives a warning: "The purchase of coins involves some risk. Therefore before purchasing coins, you should first have adequate cash reserves to absorb any loss."

CRUSC also says: "If you wish to, or must sell your coins to another dealer, you may not be offered a price as high as the one you would receive from CRUSC. Even if your coins have appreci-



iated substantially, other dealers will typically offer you a wholesale price that may result in a loss."

Mr Mitchell, who said that he was operating as a franchisee, and had been involved in coins for many years, said: "People have lost a lot of money in shares and real estate. With coins they tend not to lose." His company is an unincorporated branch of Certified Rare Coins Galleries in

manic News said: "You certainly have a chance to lose. It is a very volatile market because it is a thin market." He continued: "This year has been a poor time. They have come down by up to 50 per cent in value. Silver dollars have fallen most. The most common have taken the biggest fall."

Mr Doyle added: "People have done very well from coins but it is not something that a novice can walk into and make money."

Keith Zainer, who monitors the trends in American coins for *Coin World* said that the 50.6 per cent rise in coin prices reported by the *Wall Street Journal* was specifically for mint state 65 coins in 1989. "What has happened is that they have dropped precipitously since then. Since March they have been declining rather sharply. The worst hit coins are common date mint state 63 and better Morgan dollars, Peace dollars, half dollars, common date gold coins and common-silver coins. Of the gold coins the 20 dollars had been worst affected. Coins are not an investment which just go straight up."

On certified coins, sealed in blocks, Mr Zainer said: "You have to be careful which professional grading service is used and each investor must educate themselves first just like the stock market."

James Morton, coin specialist at Sotheby's in London said: "Some people have had their fingers very badly burned. Old coins are not a commodity. The value depends on the quality and rarity. It tends to be rather subjective and coins tend to be overgraded."

"There are some so-called independent coin grading services that do the grading. That grading can make a big difference to the price. A coin with a MS 65 might be sold for \$4,000 whereas one with MS 66 could be valued at \$30,000. Yet there could be very little to choose between the coins. It is in the eye of the beholder and some people submit a coin a dozen times to grading houses to in an attempt to get a better grade."

Mr Morton said that there were supposed to be market-makers in the certified coin market in America. They were supposed to buy a given quantity of MS 63 coins, and above, each month. They used to guarantee to bid at a certain price unseen. This is no longer the case. They were making bids and not honouring them. They had to show they were buying a certain number of coins but there was not enough money around.

Sotheby's sold a number of rare American coins at an auction in London two weeks ago. "The dealer marks up when he sells on. I have seen examples where things like this are sold at a very considerable mark up which makes investment claims very thin. You could buy at auction at a third of the price asked by some dealers," he said.

Mr Morton offered investors the following advice: "Anyone considering buying rare coins



CRUSC of the matter: the company's rented offices in Piccadilly

would do well to pause and consult dealers who are members of the British Numismatic Trade Association, which should give a reasonable opinion."

CRUSC guarantees to buy the required coins within 30 days of



the deposit being paid. Mr Morton commented: "If there is so much stock in the US that a guarantee to buy within 30 days can be made does it not suggest that a lot of coins are available?"

He continued: "You can make the figures appear how you want them to with coins. Some of the Morgan dollar coins issued from

1878 to 1921 are rare and others quite common. There are quite a lot of MS 65 common date coins. There are masses around that have not found buyers."

He added: "The market for US coins generally is very quiet at the moment. There are a number of dealers to my knowledge in difficulties in the US at the moment. I would advise caution."

The NFA World Coin Fund sponsored by Merrill Lynch Capital Markets in May planned to sell up to 75,000 \$1,000 dollar units which was to be mainly invested in pre-1947 US coins. No-one at Merrill Lynch in New York would talk about the fund. But a spokesman confirmed it was still open.

Mr Lamb of Christie's added: "There are also a large number of beautiful, rare coins. Owning them can be a wonderful experience. They can also be rewarding from a financial point of view. But you need to spend years developing your own good taste, knowledge and contacts. You cannot pay someone to make your choice."

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